



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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DATE: December 15, 2014

TO: Orange County Fire Departments
Orange County Ambulance Providers
Orange County Base Hospitals

FROM: Laurent Repass, NRP 
OC-MEDS Program Manager

SUBJECT: OC-MEDS: Next Generation Planning Committee – Request for Participants

In 2007, Orange County EMS (OCEMS) began planning for the future implementation of what would become the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS). OC-MEDS was designed with strong community participation from local EMS stakeholders to meet the dynamic needs of the Orange County EMS System and to eventually replace the paper-based prehospital care reports (PCR) that had been in use for over 30 years.

Implementation began in 2011 and by the end of 2013 the 911 EMS system had successfully transitioned from old paper-based methods to electronic prehospital care reports (ePCR) with data collection by paramedics at the patient's bedside. Today, 98% of all PCRs completed by 911 ALS providers are posted or uploaded in near real time to OC-MEDS. In addition, several ambulance providers have transitioned to electronic reporting in OC-MEDS and nearly all Orange County base hospitals have also made the change.

Beginning in early 2015, OCEMS we will be moving OC-MEDS into the future and beyond and are planning to begin the implementation of a new contemporary software platform based on the latest federal health care information standards (NEMESIS 3, Health Level 7, ICD 10, etc.). This Next Generation (NextGen) platform will allow us to transition our systems to modern computing environments that can be used on mobile tablets like Apple iPads and Google Android devices, but will most importantly enable EMS providers to exchange data with hospitals through existing local health information exchange networks. These enhancements are necessary to ensure that EMS stays current with developing technology and modern health care information sharing practices.

Based on the successes of the past, OCEMS will be forming a committee comprised of EMS Stakeholders to aid with planning, testing, and implementing the "NextGen" OC-MEDS

platform. The committee will be led by OCEMS and will include a cadre of representatives from private and public EMS providers and base hospitals. We are requesting that you select one or two individuals who you feel would best represent your interests on the committee. It is anticipated that committee members should plan for an approximate 12 – 18 month commitment with initial meetings to begin in mid to late January 2015.

Please join me in moving OC-MEDS into the future. Committee nominations and any questions should be directed to me via email at lrepass@ochca.com.

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CC: Tammi McConnell, RN, MSN, MICN
EMS Administrator