



**PUBLIC HEALTH
DIVISION**



**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**



EMS Agencies Interfacing with Wyoming's Health Information Exchange

Directors,

The Wyoming Office of EMS (OEMS) in partnership with Wyoming's Health Information Exchange (HIE) has an additional solution to satisfy the Rules and Regulations requirement for providing the prehospital patient care report (PCR) to a receiving hospital. Wyoming's ambulance agencies currently send the WATRS PCRs to the receiving hospital with a wide variety of processes. Utilizing Wyoming's HIE to send the PCR from WATRS to the receiving hospital may potentially save crews time and effort fulfilling rules and regulations requirement along with the most important component the patient's continuum of care.

Moving forward to send the WATRS PCR to a receiving hospital can be easily accomplished. There are a few requirements that need to be completed. Both, the agency and the hospital need to be a contributor to Wyoming's HIE. The hospital must also be agreeable to receive the WATRS PCR.

An EMS Agency may become an HIE contributor by submitting a request to activate the software to export the PCR to the HIE. The OEMS and the HIE teams will then coordinate with the agency and hospital to make the connection from WATRS to the hospital's medical records system. This step will also require the agency to fill in the patient's medical record number and encounter number in WATRS. PCR's may also be sent solely to the HIE too.

No longer does an agency need to submit a copy Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) to the OEMS. It is encouraged the agency review their NPP to reference the agency participates in the HIE and the patient may opt out of their records being stored in the HIE. There are NPP examples available for the asking, if useful. Note that a patient may not opt out of the PCR being transmitted through the HIE to the receiving hospital.

Presently Campbell County Health and Star Valley Health are receiving PCRs from WATRS with more hospitals in discussion to come on line. Seven ambulance agencies have completed the process to submit to the HIE.

What does the future hold? Plans are to add a look up button in WATRS to search the HIE for the patient's information available to populate the PCR. This may improve accuracy of the patient's demographics and save time entering additional patient information in WATRS. The possibilities of the information that can populate into WATRS will need further evaluation.

Additional information may be found on the web at: <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/ems/ems-program-2/watrs/> Questions, comments, please contact Jay Ostby at the OEMS or one of the HIE team members.