



# 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 in fulfilling rules and regulations requirements along with the most important component of the patient's continuum of care.

Moving forward, sending the WATRS PCR to a receiving hospital can be easily accomplished. A few requirements need to be completed. Both the agency and the hospital need to contribute to Wyoming's HIE, and the hospital must also agree 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 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. PCRs may also be sent solely to the HIE.

It is encouraged that the agency reviews its Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) to reference that the agency participates in the HIE and that patients may opt out of having their records stored in the HIE. Note that a patient may not opt out of the PCR being transmitted through the HIE to the receiving hospital.

Presently, Campbell County Health, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, and Star Valley Health are receiving PCRs from WATRS, with more hospitals in discussion to come online. Ten ambulance agencies have completed the process of submitting 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 the 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.



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