

Defined List Maintenance Policy

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to improve the quality of EMS patient care documentation by updating documentation code lists known as “Defined Lists” on a regular schedule to ensure consistency in reporting and code inclusion for emerging issues.

Defined Lists are created for consistency in reporting among EMS clinicians and to improve accuracy when utilizing data for agency reporting, quality assurance (QA) or research purposes. States and local agencies have the flexibility to add additional codes to the list as needed, however, they are encouraged to carefully consider any specific additions since excessive lists create an additional burden for the EMS clinician.

Defined Lists referred to in this policy are associated with NEMESIS elements capturing:

1. Cause of Injury: eInjury.01;
2. Provider’s Primary and Secondary Impressions: eSituation.11 and eSituation.12;
3. Primary and Other Associated Symptoms: eSituation.09 and eSituation.10;
4. Incident Location Type: eScene.09;
5. Medication Given: eMedications.03, dConfiguration.09*, sConfiguration.05*; and
6. Procedures: eProcedures.03, dConfiguration.07*, sConfiguration.03*.

*Defined Lists for eMedications.03 and eProcedures.03 can be used to configure State and Agency level files.

Maintenance Expectations

The NEMESIS TAC and the Defined Lists Review Committee will review and update the Defined Lists annually.

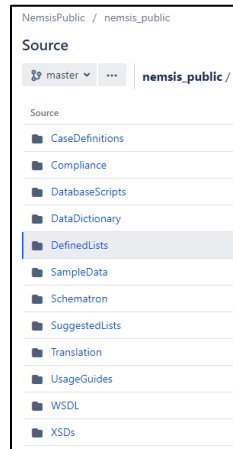
The update will be completed and disseminated in the summer of each year for inclusion in vendor software compliance test cases for the following year (e.g., An update to a Defined List is completed and disseminated in September 2023. That updated list will be reflected in compliance testing beginning January 2024.).

Only Defined Lists with changes will be updated. A change log for each year will be included with each list update.

Location and Formats

Defined Lists are made available in XML, JSON, and text files. They are located under “DefinedLists” in the NemsisPublic Git Repository:

https://stash.utahdcc.org/stash/projects/NEP/repos/nemsis_public/browse.



Reference materials are also provided on the NEMESIS website: <https://nemsis.org/technical-resources/version-3/version-3-resources/>.

Defined Lists Review Committee

The Review Committee will consist of the following representatives:

1. One representative from a State Office of EMS;
2. Two active field clinicians (one basic and one advanced life support) with experience in data collection;
3. One EMS Medical Director or EMS-focused physician;
4. One EMS field software vendor;
5. One EMS biller;
6. One member of the NEMESIS TAC; and
7. NEMESIS Liaison to NASEMSO.

Committee participants will be invited to participate by the NEMESIS TAC. If the participant is unable to perform their duties, the TAC will identify and invite a replacement. Committee members will not be permitted to name a replacement on their behalf. Stakeholders are welcome to indicate their interest in the committee to the designated NEMESIS TAC team member and will be taken into consideration. The final selection of the committee members will be determined by the TAC and NHTSA’s Office of EMS.



Revision Requests

Revisions to a Defined List may be submitted by any stakeholder by submitting a service desk ticket here: <https://nemsis.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portals>.

Revisions may also be submitted by members of the Review Committee, the NEMESIS TAC, and NHTSA's Office of EMS. Revision requests will be reviewed by the committee in the next scheduled meeting.

The submitter will be notified by the TAC of the final decision from the Review Committee.

Considerations

Revisions to the lists may include:

1. Additions;
2. Removal/replacement of retired codes; and/or
3. Replacing a code with one more appropriate for EMS documentation, and/or code revisions designed to add clarity for the EMS clinician.

Code considerations will include:

1. Frequency of code use;
2. Applicability to EMS care and documentation; and
3. Emerging trends.

Other considerations:

1. Reducing redundancy, documentation burden and any overlap that may exist between the Defined Lists (e.g., similar codes existing in both Provider Impressions and Patient Symptoms lists); and
2. Primary consideration is the documentation burden placed on the field clinician. Excessive lists will continue to be discouraged.

Codes will be selected, updated or replaced with those most appropriate to the EMS industry. Preference will be shown for:

1. "Procedure" and "regime/therapy" codes found in the SNOMED CT standard for Procedures;
2. "Multiple ingredient" and "ingredient" codes found in the RxNorm standard for Medications, avoiding name brand codes if possible; and
3. Billable codes to support reimbursement.

Notification and Dissemination

Notification of updates to Defined Lists will be provided during the following:

1. The NEMESIS bi-monthly v3 Implementation Calls;
2. National Association of State EMS Officials council meetings; and
3. The NEMESIS Google Group forum.

The TAC will update and publish the related resources including multiple formats for use by States and software developers.



Suggested Lists

Other recommended code lists provided by the NEMESIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) are referred to as “Suggested Lists”. These lists are associated with NEMESIS data elements not defined as “Required” or “Mandatory” in the NEMESIS v3.5 data standard. Suggested Lists may be updated as needed, but are not subject to the same maintenance schedule as Defined Lists, as they are a courtesy resource.

(<https://nemsis.org/technical-resources/version-3/version-3-resources/>)

For convenience, Suggested Lists are provided in the same formats (XML, JSON, text) as Defined Lists and can be found in the same repository:

https://stash.utahdcc.org/stash/projects/NEP/repos/nemsis_public/browse.

Suggested Lists and their associated NEMESIS element:

1. Patient Activity (eSituation.17);
2. Medication Allergies (eHistory.06);
3. Environmental/Food Allergies (eHistory.07); and
4. Medical/Surgical History (eHistory.08).

Use of Suggested Lists is not associated with nor required for software compliance to the NEMESIS v3.5 data standard.

Questions or Comments

For questions or comments regarding this policy, contact Cassie Longhart at cassie.longhart@hsc.utah.edu or email support@nemsis.atlassian.net.