NEMSIS
BETTER DATA. BETTER CARE.

ERRORS AND WARNINGS

The National EMS Database uses Errors and Warnings as data validity checks to support and encourage complete and quality data throughout the collection, reporting and submission process.

Errors can occur related to any National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) element and, if not corrected, will result in the file containing the error to fail export. Neither the State/Territory (nor NEMSIS) will receive the file, unless the error is fixed. All errors should be identified and presented to the EMS clinician for review. Persistent errors should be reported to the ePCR software company and the State/Territory.

ERROR

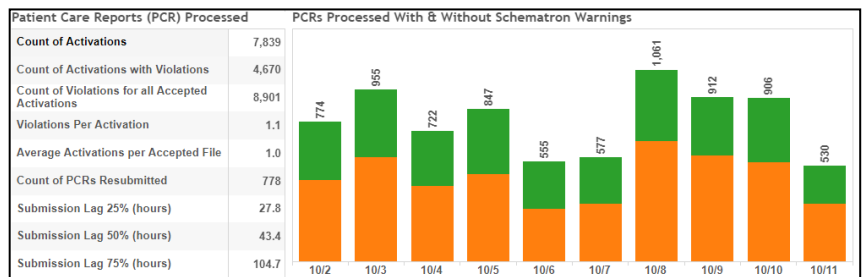*Errors relate to data structure or the integrity of the file to be exported.*

WARNING

Warnings relate to decisions made by clinicians while reporting EMS Call information.

Warnings can occur related to any NEMSIS element and often suggest that data elements are not completed, completed incorrectly or do not follow established validity rules (such as dispatch time must be prior to transport time). If a warning is triggered, the record will still be exported to the State/Territory (and NEMSIS), even if the warning is not addressed. All warnings should be identified and presented to the EMS clinician for review.

Scope: Errors and Warnings are not associated with the "severity" of the associated data mistake. Some "warnings" may relate to serious clinical conditions, while errors may simply indicate some problem with data structure. However, States/Territories may choose to concentrate data quality efforts related to a unique set of data elements.

Tracking: Utilizing the V3 State Data Submissions Dashboard, States/Territories can view actionable information regarding the frequency and quality of data being submitted by individual agencies. Set up an appointment with the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center to understand how to make best use of this important dashboard. (nemsis@hsc.utah.edu)

Patient Care Reports (PCR) Processed	
Count of Activations	7,839
Count of Activations with Violations	4,670
Count of Violations for all Accepted Activations	8,901
Violations Per Activation	1.1
Average Activations per Accepted File	1.0
Count of PCRs Resubmitted	778
Submission Lag 25% (hours)	27.8
Submission Lag 50% (hours)	43.4
Submission Lag 75% (hours)	104.7

One of many charts available in the State Data Submission Dashboard.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Customize: States/Territories should not modify the National-level Errors and Warnings, but can add additional State-level Errors and Warnings to their StateDataSet (SDS) as a way to encourage higher quality data submission for State-specific elements.

No Duplication: If an ePCR is already submitted to NEMSIS and is subsequently revised for completeness, the newest submission overwrites the older ePCR. There are no duplicate ePCRs in the National EMS Database.

IMPACT ON FIELD CLINICIANS	IMPACT ON THE AGENCY OR STATE/TERRITORY
Data-entry users (field clinicians) should experience a notification within the software product to alert them of Errors or Warnings that must be reviewed prior to the finalization of the patient record. This is to assist the field clinician in completing the most accurate documentation possible for that EMS call.	Errors and Warnings are the final line of defense against incomplete and inaccurate data populating State registries or the National EMS Database. Records with Errors or Warnings need to be reviewed by field clinicians at the time of data entry. If records with Warnings are submitted, an updated record (with Warnings corrected) can be resubmitted. High quality data (accurate, complete and actionable) underlies every effort to support and improve EMS care.

BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE ERRORS/WARNINGS

Build NEMSIS reports to help agencies respond to Errors/Warnings.

Understand and educate where and how Errors/Warnings are presented to clinicians.

The ePCR product should present all Errors/Warnings associated with a completed record to the field-level EMS clinician.

EMS clinicians should correct all reported Errors and review all Warnings associated with a completed ePCR.

Develop a policy/procedure for **Error/Warning Resolution and Follow-Up** through collaboration with software vendors.