

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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John Ohanian
Chief Data Officer
Director, Center for Data Insights and Innovation
California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)

RE: Comments regarding Data Exchange Framework Data Sharing Agreement and related policies and Strategy for Digital Identities

Thank you for the tremendous amount of work you and your team have done leading the Data Exchange Framework. Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) has reviewed the Data Exchange Framework (DxF), Data Sharing Agreement (DSA), Policies & Procedures (P&Ps), and Strategy for Digital Identities documents and supports the documents as written. EMSA would like to encourage stakeholder engagement from Emergency Medical Services, which would include the Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies (LEMSA), Emergency Medical Services Providers, Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC), Emergency Medical Services Directors Association of California (EMDAC), EMSA Data Advisory Group (EDAG), California Professional Firefighters (CPF), California Fire Chief Association (Cal Chiefs) and California Ambulance Association (CAA).

As you are aware, the electronic exchange of clinical information is vital to improving health care quality, safety, and patient outcomes. As first responders, EMS providers must often make quick, life-saving decisions without patient health information during emergencies. The ability to connect to data sources and exchange data allows emergency medical technicians and paramedics to appropriately access and securely share a patient's vital medical information electronically. Being part of this data exchange framework will provide additional data resources that will help improve Health Care Quality and patient outcomes by reducing medication and medical errors. Increasing access to linked outcome data from hospitals can help EMS systems measure performance, improve their provision of care, and provide timely feedback to providers.

EMSA feels it is vital to participate in the Data Sharing Agreement as a voluntary participant and encourages participation from our Emergency Medical Services, which would include the Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies (LEMSA), Emergency Medical Services Providers, Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC), Emergency Medical Services Directors Association of California (EMDAC), EMSA Data Advisory Group (EDAG), California Professional Firefighters (CPF), California Fire Chief Association (Cal Chiefs) and California Ambulance Association (CAA).

EMSA Stands in support of the Data Exchange Framework (DxF), Data Sharing Agreement (DSA), Policies & Procedures (P&Ps), and Strategy for Digital Identities, and looks forward to future collaboration with you.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Basnett, EMEDM
Acting Director
Emergency Medical Services Authority



Hernando Garzon, MD
Acting Medical Director
Emergency Medical Services Authority