

Alabama e-PCR Validation & Compliance Procedures

Alabama has chosen Grayco Systems to handle data validation testing for the Alabama Office of EMS and Trauma (OEMST). The testing tools used by Grayco include the "NEMSIS Validator", a downloadable file from www.nemsis.org, as well as a customized validator specifically for *Alabama*/NEMSIS dataset testing.

OEMST will handle final Alabama Validation data testing. The tools that will be used will be an Alabama Validator that will give back immediate test results via submitting runs to a server. All runs will also be examined by a Data Analyst who will verify the completeness and accuracy of the submitted records.

1. Contact OEMST to let us know that you wish to participate, then contact Dean Taylor (601-583-0430) at Grayco Systems. Information about the Alabama dataset and validation tools can be obtained from <http://www.emsis.net/alabama>. There are three tests involved in the process: a NEMSIS validation test; an Alabama Validation test; and implementation of a transmission method that compatible with the OEMST server.

Providers need to export and submit files that represent all the runs occurring over the span of seven consecutive days (or a minimum of 50 actual PCRs) using a NEMSIS compliant XML, exported directly from their software (preferably a variety of call scenarios). Incidents submitted for compliance testing cannot undergo external pre-testing using either the NEMSIS Validator or the ADPH Submission Tester, nor can they have been previously sent in a compliance test. Files are sent to Dean Taylor who will test for NEMSIS compliance and Alabama Compliance. NEMSIS Compliance is a pass or fail scenario and all the files must pass the NEMSIS validation test for approval. Alabama compliance is a 90% pass rate with an error in a single PCR failing that PCR. After testing, Grayco Systems will inform sites of their results.

EX.1 50 runs submitted 4 runs failed due to "Cancelled Time" being entered when there was a "Patient Time" entered; with no NEMSIS errors would pass 92%.

EX.2 50 runs submitted and 20 runs not containing an Onset Time would fail 60%.

EX.3 50 runs submitted and 1 NEMSIS error reported would fail.

2. Providers will need to demonstrate the ability to transmit a NEMSIS compliant XML, using either the supplied upload tools, or a self generated upload tool that is compatible with the OEMST Servers. After testing, Grayco Systems will inform providers of their results. In the event that test files do not pass the compliance testing, the Provider will need to call their vendor to address any possible compliance issues. Because OEMST is not equipped to aid vendors who have recurring problems producing files that have NEMSIS-compliance issues, those files will be sent to the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center and the vendor in turn will be referred to the Center for assistance.
3. After test files have achieved a "passed" status, Grayco Systems will instruct providers to begin transmitting test runs to the state system (OEMST). Runs that are transmitted to OEMST go through an automatic validation process. The server will give back results immediately. This will only test the use of Alabama Validations. Completeness of records is the responsibility of the Medic but should be emphasized by the employer.
4. Final compliance will be determined after OEMST has:
 1. Received regular **168** hour transmissions
 2. Received accurate records (determined by a Data Analyst & OEMST Director)
 3. Determined the implementation of Alabama validations has reached a satisfactory point a licensed provider and their software will be declared compliant for that location.

Post Approval Compliance Rules:

1. Alabama e-PCRs are medical records. An agent for the Provider may only transcribe medical procedures, protocols, medications and narrative statements as recorded by the treating EMT.
2. All data must be transmitted within **168** hours. Exceptions may only occur where the data system infrastructure does not allow reporting on weekends.
3. Alabama e-PCRs must contain all procedures performed by the attending EMTs. An EMT shall not document procedures, medications and protocols performed by another agency except in the narrative statement.

Corrections Policy:

Any ePCR records should be corrected as soon as possible. If the responsible person (EMT that performed treatment) has gone off-duty and is unavailable for an extended period, the records should be corrected by that same person as soon as reasonably possible. It is by no means our desire to cause undue hardship but rather that we strive to collect timely information in support of emergency response, patient care and survivability.

Contacts at the Office of EMS and Trauma (334-206-5383):

Chris Lochte or Craig Dowell for technical support; Russell Crowley for unresolved issues.