

### Newsletter - June/July 2013

## Newport Beach Fire Department to Launch ePCR by End of July – Creates Their Own Custom ePCR Template

The Newport Beach Fire Department (NBFD) is nearing the final stages of full implementation of the OC-MEDS ePCR. Led by Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Novak, NBFD anticipates that they will successfully transition to 100% utilization of ePCRs by the end of July 2013. NBFD appointed Firefighter/Paramedic Novak as their full-time "ePCR Coordinator" in April 2013. Since then, he has successfully managed the difficult tasks of template design, curriculum development, staff training, and hardware selection. OCEMS had the chance to ask FF/PM Novak a few questions:

OCEMS: How easy (or difficult) was it to use the layout editor to create your own template?

Novak: The layout editor is a powerful tool for customizing the ePCR template. When I redesigned our template, I removed many of the data elements that NBFD did not need. The great thing about the layout editor is that I can now add things back in and/or modify the template on a trial and error basis. The Layout Editor allows me to constantly tweak things to make the ePCR more efficient for the end users.

OCEMS: What was your rational for choosing a consumer tablet versus a more rugged commercial tablet?



Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Novak

Novak: The bottom line was that we wanted to pair Field Bridge with the best device possible for our end users while considering long term budgetary constraints. We have been using the Samsung ATIV 700T for 6 months and it has been a great device so far. Not only does it cost half as much as the more ruggedized devices, but its light, fast, and has a large high definition display.

OCEMS: Any "pearls of wisdom" regarding ePCR training for staff?

Novak: I have been assigned to a 40 hour work week with the sole purpose of training staff and implementing the ePCR for the Newport Beach Fire Department. Teaching one's peers is amongst the toughest environments for an instructor. So, if I could give some simple advice it would be to have a lot of patience and keep a positive attitude. The transition to ePCR is one of the biggest changes in the fire service in recent history. It is very important to let your staff know that it is completely acceptable to struggle with the new technology and that it will get better over time and with practice. With that said, it is extremely important for the Fire Department to support its end users. To help accomplish this, we've used our city intranet to post educational resources about the ePCR including PowerPoints, user guides, and training videos.

OCEMS: About when do you anticipate that your department will be 100% "live" on ePCR?

Novak: 75% of Newport Beach Fire Department has been trained and we will be 100% "live" by the end of July. Although we are not 100% live on ePCR when it comes to personnel, we continue to have 100% "live" days where all of our patient care reports are electronic.

eBHR and Base Hospital Communications Equipment

Who's "Going Live"?



Base Hospital Coordinator Kathy Kelly tests new Base Console at Western Medical Center – Santa Ana

# Base Hospital Communications Consoles Replacement Project A Success

Orange County Communications (OCC), in collaboration with OCEMS, has successfully completed the Base Hospital Communications Console Replacement Project. The project fully replaced aging communications consoles used by Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICN) at each Base Hospital. The new consoles include modern radio communication components with computerized touch screen controls. In addition to new communications capabilities, the project will soon include new Electronic Base Hospital Report (eBHR) software that will allow each base hospital to be interoperable with the OC-MEDS ePCR software used by paramedics in the field.



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ePCR Hardware

## OCEMS Distributes Over 140 UASI Grant Funded Tablets To Fire Departments

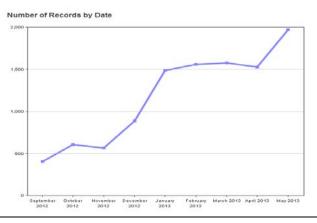
In collaboration with the Anaheim/Santa Ana Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and most Orange County Fire Departments, Orange County EMS (OCEMS) has successfully purchased and distributed over 140 computer tablets to public EMS providers to stimulate the final implementation of ePCR systems countywide. This equipment was purchased in support of the OC-MEDS project with UASI FY 2011 Grant Funds. OCEMS is planning to work with the remaining Fire Departments to facilitate the selection and procurement of devices after July 1, 2013.



### OC-MEDS ePCR Usage By Fire Departments On Track To Meet 25% Goal by Fall 2013

Last Spring, OCEMS set a goal of 25% ePCR utilization by fire departments by Fall 2013. The objective was to measure the countywide monthly average EMS call volume (n = 14,000) and compare it to the number of ePCRs that were completed and posted by fire department personnel. We are on track to meet that goal with the May 2013 totals coming in at 14%. OCEMS is committed to the success of the ePCR project and will continue to work with fire departments to encourage agency implementation of the ePCR with a target monthly average of at least 25% by Fall 2013 and 75% by Winter 2013.

ePCR Utilization



Incident Date	Count
September 2012	407
October 2012	608
November 2012	566
December 2012	000
January 2013	1,409
February 2013	1,560
March 2013	1,579
April 2013	1,527
Mar. 2004	4.676

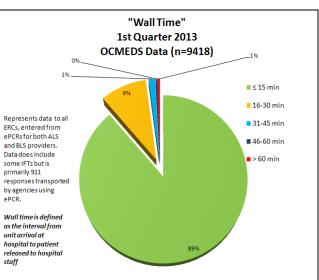
### Report Writer Beginning To Generate Meaningful Data

**CQI** and Data

Reports

OCEMS has been working with EMS provider agencies for several years to implement the OC-MEDS project. We are finally in the position to be able to generate some meaningful data that can help us all better manage the delivery of prehospital patient care for the citizens that we serve.

The issue of Emergency Department (ED) "Wall Times" has been a perpetual discussion topic for several years among EMS Systems throughout the nation. It has been a regular topic in Orange County too, with the perception that "Wall Times" may be getting longer. Using data submitted to OC-MEDS from both public and private EMS Providers, we can now begin to evaluate "Wall Times" to better determine their impacts and shape future policies if needed.



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### Online EMT Certification System A Success

Licensure Management The online EMT Certification system, a component of the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) project, has been fully operational since December 17, 2012 and is being used by nearly all EMT applicants served by OCEMS. The system is operational 24 hours per day / 7 days per week and may be accessed at:

https://www.oc-meds.org/licensure/public/orangecounty/.

The system is already generating valuable information about the certification of EMTs in Orange County, and example of which is viewable in the exhibit.

