



# AZ-PIERS Data System Rights and Obligations

## Statement of Purpose:

Arizona’s EMS and Trauma System is composed of many different stakeholders who are positioned to improve care under quality assurance protection through their performance improvement actions. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System (Bureau) is charged with assisting in the development of statewide systematic quality improvement initiatives. Together, the Bureau and EMS providers can leverage data to improve the system and enhance patient outcomes. This document outlines the respective rights and obligations of each of the parties relating to the collection, storage and use of emergency care data.

## Obligations of the Bureau

- Ensure that the individual provider’s and agency’s data will not be used for regulatory purposes nor be reported in such a way as it identifies the individual provider or agency,\*
- Ensure that its reporting and analysis targets systems issues and not individual provider issues as a part of a targeted quality assurance process,
- Ensure that no agency will have access to another agency’s identifiable data,
- Ensure that quality assurance data are kept confidential and are not available for public inquiry or subpoena,
- Ensure that all BEMSTS employees maintain the highest level of confidentiality for all data collected,
- Provide each reporting agency with frequent, useful reports that will allow an agency to ascertain how their organization performs, against a blinded aggregate of other state and national datasets,
- Use the aggregate data to describe the incidence, frequency, severity and general location of illness and injury,
- Utilize other data sources existing in the state and nationally to better describe injury and illness in Arizona,
- Any peer reviewed publication by AZDHS that exclusively utilizes a single agency’s data requires permission and credit to the agency and the Medical Director.

## Rights of the EMS Agency

- Each EMS agency has the right to expect that data contributed to the Bureau
  - Will be maintained securely,
  - Will be used to describe, analyze and improve the emergency care system,
  - Will not be used for regulatory purposes,
  - Will not be reported in a fashion that identifies a patient, the patient’s family, the individual provider, the agency\* or the hospital,
- Unless otherwise obligated, an EMS agency has the right to stop submitting data at any time.

## Obligations of the EMS Agency

- Optimize data quality by participating in the EMS Registry Users Group (EMSRUG), directly or via liaisons, and implementing those policies at their respective agency,
- Commit to regular data uploads as determined by EMSRUG.

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**I hereby attest that the Bureau will meet the obligations identified in this document**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Mullins, Chief  
Bureau of EMS and Trauma System

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bentley Bobrow, Medical Director  
Bureau of EMS and Trauma System

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby attest that the Agency will meet the obligations identified in this document**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Exception is for reports that are sent to each contributing agency containing THEIR own agency’s data  
Intended for use only in the BEMSTS Quality Assurance Processes