



**AZ PIERS  
Registry Users Group  
(EMSRUG)**



**Minutes**

**Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Arizona Dept. of Health Services**

**150 North 18th Avenue Phoenix AZ 85007**

**5th Floor – 540A Conference Room**

**AZ PIERS Contacts:**

**Anne Vossbrink 602-364-3164 or [Anne.Vossbrink@azdhs.gov](mailto:Anne.Vossbrink@azdhs.gov)  
Rogelio Martinez 602-542-2246 or [Rogelio.Martinez@azdhs.gov](mailto:Rogelio.Martinez@azdhs.gov)**

A) Welcome & Introductions

B) Data Quality

1) New Trauma & EMS Performance Improvement (TEPI) workgroup regarding AZ-PIERS data quality

a) The goals of the workgroup are to increase the number of records that are accepted by AZ-PIERS, identify which agencies are providing ePCR data, and improve the frequency and timing of hospital receipt of e-PCR data. At the conclusion of the workgroup, AZ-PIERS will have established EMS data submission completeness and timeliness guidelines for all ePCRs, EMS data quality guidelines in AZ-PIERS, and corrective steps for agencies not meeting the guidelines.

2) Total record submission: how can we confirm/compare agency totals to AZ-PIERS totals?

a) The issue occurs when not all records are submitted but there is no check for this in AZ-PIERS. Problems arise when hospitals look for records, and also when agency and statewide reports are run, as data does not reflect actual averages.

- Discussion occurred but no solution was formed. The only plan is to continue to send out the weekly record submission count by month and expect the recipient agencies to note if any monthly record counts are below the actual count.

C) AZ-PIERS for Public Information

1) Development of a Public Dataset – Rogelio

a) The proposal of a public dataset was presented. Questions were asked as to what it would contain, and whether or not it was acceptable. Also, a question was asked as to what other states have public datasets and what they contain.

- The public dataset variables list is listed at:

- <http://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/emergency-medical-services-trauma-system/data/users/az-piers-data%20element-list-for-public.pdf>

Comments and suggestions are welcome and can be sent to [Rogelio.Martinez@azdhs.gov](mailto:Rogelio.Martinez@azdhs.gov)

- The dataset has been stripped off all identifiers of patient, organization, and provider per the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA). The dataset resembles datasets found in other states and NEMSIS.

- 2) AZ-PIERS aggregate incident map planned for the Community Profiles Dashboard
  - a) An example of what it looks like (not AZ-PIERS data) is at:  
<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/phstats/profiles/>
    - Any map would represent data at the level where the smallest unit that could be viewed would be the PCA level (UPDATE: smallest unit will be the EMS regional level as PCAs may be bias due to a limited data set). Maps are planning to be presented at TEPI, EMS regions, and statutory committees.
    - At this time, the project is on hold.
  
- D) Update on the Premier EMS Agency Program suggested changes – Rogelio
  - 1) An updated PEAP program was discussed. As much of the data quality piece of the PEAP qualifications falls under the newly created Data Quality workgroup under the TEPI committee, the updates to PEAP will be on hold and instead directed under the Data Quality workgroup and TEPI. Please contact Rogelio Martinez at [Rogelio.Martinez@azdhs.gov](mailto:Rogelio.Martinez@azdhs.gov) if you are interested in attending Data Quality committee meetings, for more information.  
Update: The Data Quality and Completeness workgroup will meet on October 2, 2015 at 10:00 am at ADHS 4<sup>th</sup> floor. In person and remote attendance opportunities are available.
  
- E) Call for the agency perspective on V3 transition issues
  - Advice for other states about transitioning to V3? – What would you want them to know as far as best practices with agency transition (some states are not voluntary data submission).
    - Agencies felt that it was valuable to be involved in the development of the AZ-PIERS V3 data dictionary as a collaborative statewide group. This allowed buy-in and consensus.
  
- F) Upcoming AZ-PIERS reports
  - 1) Development of the first EMS Annual Report
    - a) An Annual EMS Report is currently in development. No specific content or format has yet been determined.
  - 2) New PI Benchmark report
    - a) The next PI Benchmark report will cover stroke. It will be based off confirmed stroke diagnosis by linkage to 2014 Hospital Discharge Database diagnosis, making the focus under-triage. .
  
- G) Data Security
  - 1) Discussion on maintaining access to Hospital Dashboard/Hospital Hub
    - a) Currently we require hospital to send in a letter confirming their agreement that they must maintain current users and notify us or inactivate users who should no longer have access
    - b) This measure was put in place to reduce the likelihood of outdated access to the system.

- c) We would like to request that agencies who become aware of a change in staff at a hospital also let the AZ-PIERS Data Manager know.

H) Version 3 Data Element & Value Usage

- 1) Discussion of documentation in the Version 3 fields that pull from standardized lists. As text is not an acceptable format, how can agencies document and transmit information regarding values not listed. Ex: patient has a current medication that is not on the list.
- 2) Image Trend has comment fields available for each standardized list, where these types of values can be listed and tracked. A guide as to how to add these to agency run forms and to the PDF you agency has for your hospital's view of information was presented. Agencies using other vendors need to work with those vendors to make sure the values can be recorded and transmitted. The importance being that without transmission, the hospitals would not see the information on their PDF.

I) Announcements

- 1) Next EMSURG meeting will be Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, 10:00 -12:00  
150 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 540A, Phoenix, AZ 85007

J) Questions/Requests

- 1) Vendor request to attend/call into EMSRUG meetings
  - Vendors have requested to attend/call into EMSRUG meeting. EMSRUG discussed and approved this request. Vendors will be invited to the next EMSRUG meeting.

K) Topics of Future Discussion as proposed by group

L) Open floor