NEMSIS V3 Suggested List – Example EMS Descriptor Position

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Overview of the Health Care Data Standard and its use in the NEMSIS Version 3 Suggested Lists

For the NEMSIS Version3 Dataset existing health care data standards are used for multiple data elements. These data standards include ICD-10-CM, SNOMED CT, and RxNorm. Please reference the NEMSIS Version 3 White Paper "Use of Suggested Lists for Existing Standards (updated January 5, 2012)" for a full list elements using each standard. The list can be found on the NEMSIS Version 3 Resources page (http://www.nemsis.org/v3/resources.html).

Purpose of the Example EMS Descriptor in the NEMSIS Version 3 Suggested Lists

Within the NEMSIS Suggested Lists, whether in the White Papers or the Excel spreadsheets, additional columns were created to provide clarity to the EMS Professional regarding the health care data standard (ICD-10-CM or SNOMED CT) official description.

The "Example EMS Descriptor" column includes terminology that may be used by the EMS community in place of the official health care data standard description. Please note neither the official code nor description has been changed. The backend code and description remain that of the health care data standard for the element. This is true at the NEMSIS TAC and for EMS software development companies and their products.

The EMS terminology is derived from the health care data standard and has not changed the meaning of the description. Where possible a data standard synonym is used. This information may be used for EMS training purposes or implemented in the EMS software used by EMS.

Modification of the UMLS® Health Care Standard Description

In communications between the NEMSIS TAC and the U. S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health at the Unified Medical Language System® (UMLS®) regarding modifications to the ICD-10-CM and SNOMED CT code description/term the following information was provided:

SNOMED CT Expert (May 24, 2013): *"The term used for the interface terminology does not have to be an actual description in SNOMED CT. Many organizations use a variety of locally recognized terms to represent fully defined concepts in SNOMED. It is important to recognize that the real meaning of the concept in SNOMED is based on the defining relationships associated with it, not the string that represents the concept. So it is essential that the maps to SNOMED be as "high fidelity" as possible, while the actual interface term for the users may be something that is recognized by them."*

ICD-10-CM Expert (May 28, 2013): *The "ICD-10-CM description can be shortened. It's pretty normal for the product to use different terminology. Vendors can display a different descriptor." The key is that the descriptor is "derived from ICD-10-CM and the meaning has not been changed."*

Guidance regarding the intent of the general column heading within the NEMSIS Version 3 White Papers and excel spreadsheets is provided below.

Note: Keep in mind the column heading may not apply to all Suggested Lists.

Column Heading	NEMSIS TAC Additional Information	Applies to the following White Paper Element Groups
Explanation of Inclusion or Clarification	To provide additional information regarding the descriptor. Terminology used includes "Clar" for clarification; "Def" for definition; or "SYN", an indication of a synonym for the descriptor provided within ICD-10-CM or SNOMED code sets.	All Element White Papers 1. Procedures (3 White Papers) 2. Medications (3 White Papers) 3. Cause of Injury 4. Incident Location 5. Symptom (2 White Papers) 6. Impression 7. Patient Activity 8. Environmental/Food Allergies 9.
Example EMS Descriptor	Developed to provide simple descriptors for EMS professional use. If the descriptor is not an exact match to the ICD-10-CM or SNOMED descriptor the terminology has been provided based on a synonym (identifiable based on (1) or (2) following the descriptor. Other descriptors are included as common terminology used or more readily recognized by EMS professionals. The meaning of the ICD-10-CM or SNOMED CT description has not been changed. The code has not been modified	1. Procedures 2. Medications 3. Cause of Injury 4. Incident Location 5. Symptom 6. Impression 7. Environmental/Food Allergies

Column Heading	NEMSIS TAC Additional Information	Applies to the following White Paper Element Groups
Category	Categories were developed based on the chapters and sections of ICD-10-CM. The purpose is to provide a hierarchy or tree branching structure of the descriptor choices. This allows the choices to be grouped into subsets of data for ease of use. For procedures (using the SNOMED CT standard) the categories were developed based on the type of procedure performed (e.g. Assessment, Cardiac, Respiratory, Vascular, etc.). These categories can be used for EMS training purposes.	1. Procedures 2. Cause of Injury 3. Symptom 4. Impression
Sub-Category	A Sub-Category of a category was developed to further define the descriptor choices into smaller subsets. This allows the choices to be grouped into subsets of data for ease of use. The goal is to limit the descriptors displayed to the EMS professional to improve documentation. These sub-categories can be used for EMS training purposes.	1. Symptom
Procedure Label by Category	Specific to EMS procedures this category is designed to show the category plus the procedure label. The combination may allow the EMS professional to more quickly locate the procedure used based on the category. These categories can be used for EMS training purposes.	1. Procedures