

# NEMSIS V3 Pertinent Negatives (PN) and NOT Values (NV) Usage

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## Abstract

This document describes the usage of the following NEMSIS V3 attributes:

1. NOT values (NV), and
2. Pertinent Negatives (PN),
3. xsi:nil="true" (Nil).

## Background

The current definitions for NV, PN, and Nil are described below:

### NOT Values Accepted (NV)

- Not all data elements accept NOT values.
- NOT Values have been condensed in Version 3.
  - Not Applicable = *The data element is not applicable or pertinent to the EMS event.*
  - Not Recorded = *If a data element was unintentionally left blank the EMS software should auto-populate it with "Not Recorded".*
  - Not Reporting = *The data element is not collected by the EMS agency or state. This NOT value does not apply to National elements where "Usage = Required".*

### Pertinent Negative Values (PN)

- Not all data elements accept Pertinent Negative Values.
- Pertinent Negative Values are documented as "an attribute" of an element. It allows the documentation of pertinent negative value in addition to the documentation of a "real" value.
- Example of use:
  - Example #1 - Aspirin Administration:
    - If the medication Aspirin is part of the agency protocol for Chest Pain but was not administered by the responding crew, the reason why should be documented. This is done through the use of Pertinent Negative Values. If the patient took the Aspirin prior to the EMS arrival on scene, the value "Medication Already Taken" should be documented in addition to "Aspirin".
  - Example #2 - Gunshot Wound Entry & Exit Assessment
    - If the patient was injured by a gunshot the assessment should document not only the entry but the exit of the bullet. In the abdominal assessment if "Gunshot Wound-Entry" was documented in the Right Upper Quadrant the EMS professional should be looking for an exit wound. If upon assessment of the back/spine no "Gunshot Wound-Exit" was identified then both "Gunshot Wound-Exit" and the pertinent negative value of "Exam Finding Not Present" should be documented.

### Is Nillable (Nil)

- Indicates that the element can accept a "blank" value.

- If the element is left "blank" the software must submit an appropriate value of one of the two previous attributes: Pertinent Negative or NOT Values.

### Possible Valid XML Variations

Option	Code	PN	NV	Nil	Example
1	X				<eMedications.03>142153</eMedications.03>
2 *	X	X			<eMedications.03 PN="8801009">142153</eMedications.03>
3	X		X		<eMedications.03 NV="7701003">142153</eMedications.03>
4	X	X	X		<eMedications.03 PN="8801009" NV="7701003">142153</eMedications.03>
5				X	<eMedications.03 xsi:nil="true"></eMedications.03>
6 *		X		X	<eMedications.03 xsi:nil="true" PN="8801009"></eMedications.03>
7			X	X	<eMedications.03 xsi:nil="true" NV="7701003"></eMedications.03>
8		X	X	X	<eMedications.03 xsi:nil="true" PN="8801009" NV="7701003"></eMedications.03>

\*Elements allow for only 1, 2, & 6 or 1, 2, & 7. Read the [Notes](#) section to determine what options are allowed

## Example

**Element:** eMedications.03

### Medication

RXCUI Code: 142153

Name: Albuterol Sulfate

### Pertinent Negative

8801009 - Medication Already Taken

### NOT Value

7701003 - Not Recorded

### Options Allowed

Only options 1, 2, 7 are allowed.

## Note

All of the examples listed above will pass XML Schema validation; however, only options 1, 2, 6, and 7 are valid. Elements that allow Pertinent Negatives (PN) will either allow for option 2 or 6.

To determine whether option 2 or 6 is allowed reference the text file **NEMESIS v3 Element Details** located on <http://nemsis.org/v3/downloads/datasetDictionaries.html>. If the element allows for PN's and the column "PNNill" has PNNill then option 6 is allowed and option 2 is not. Likewise, if the element allows for PN's and the column "PNNill" is empty then option 2 is allowed and option 6 is not.

In addition, schematron is required for additional validation which the NEMESIS TAC will be implementing for the NEMESIS Version 3 elements. Elements with their valid options are located here in the CSV files located here:

<http://www.nemsis.org/v3/downloads/datasetDictionaries.html>