

eDispatch.05 - Dispatch Priority (Patient Acuity)

Definition

The actual, apparent, or potential acuity of the patient's condition as determined through information obtained during the EMD process.

National Element	No	Pertinent Negatives (PN)	No
State Element	No	NOT Values	No
Version 2 Element		Is Nillable	No
Usage	Optional	Recurrence	0 : 1

Code List

Code	Description
2305001	Priority 1 (Critical)
2305003	Priority 2 (Emergent)
2305005	Priority 3 (Lower Acuity)
2305007	Priority 4 (Non-Acute [e.g. Scheduled Transfer or Standby])

Data Element Comment

The use of priority and acuity values vary by EMS agency. Some systems may utilize fewer than four priority levels and some more. The use of four priority levels is to capture the majority and allow for the inclusion of the NHTSA National EMS Core Content definitions for patient acuity, specifically: Critical, Emergent, and Lower Acuity.

Provided below is an example application only. This example bears no relationship to any particular federal, state, or agency billing requirement

For EMS Agencies and CAD / EMD systems utilizing Alpha-Echo, Omega levels for determining the priority level for dispatch of the EMS unit, the recommended mapping is:

Echo = Priority 1	Charlie = Priority 2	Alpha = Priority 3
Delta = Priority 1	Bravo = Priority 2	Omega = Priority 4

Priority 1 is typically an emergent (lights and sirens) response

Priority 2 is typically an emergent response without the use lights and sirens

Priority 3 is typically a non-emergent response for nursing home, hospital-to-hospital transfers, etc.

Priority 4 is typically a scheduled response (scheduled transfer) or standby event

Definitions related to "Critical, Emergent, and Lower Acuity" can be found in the National EMS Core Content document from NHTSA EMS (DOT HS 809-898 July 2005) at

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/emscorecontent/images/EMSCoreContent.pdf>

For Air Medical Transports the most appropriate values choices should be limited to two: Emergent (Priority 2) and Non-Emergent (Priority 4).