NEMSIS TAC Whitepaper

NEMSIS V3 Guidance for the use of NOT Values

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June 19, 2014 – Reformatted; Updated Definition for "Not Recorded"; and other language
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Background
The NEMSIS Version 3 standard is comprised of four types of elements identified as Usage Type. These are the keystones to the standard. Two of the Usage types identify national elements (Mandatory and Required).

Usage Value Definition Descriptions
There are 4 types of elements in NEMSIS Version 3 that determine the Usage of each element:

1. **Mandatory:** These elements are always required and must be filled out in every record and "Not Values" are not allowed.

2. **Required:** These elements are always required and they do allow "Not Values" to be used.

3. **Recommended:** These elements are optional elements and allow the use of "Not Values"

4. **Optional:** These elements are optional and do not allow for "Not Values"

NOT Value Definition Descriptions
NEMSIS V3 Overview Document Description of NOT Values

NOT Values have been condensed in Version 3.

1. **Not Applicable:** The data element is not applicable or pertinent to the EMS event. This value should be available to the user.

2. **Not Recorded:** The data element is considered applicable to the EMS event, but was left blank by the user. The EMS software should auto-populate blank fields with "Not Recorded". This value should not be available to the user.

3. **Not Reporting:** The data element is not be collected by the EMS agency or state. This NOT value does not apply to National elements where "Usage = Required". This value should not be available to the user.

Guidance for the use of NOT Values

The information below provides guidance on the use of NOT values for the four element Usage Types (Mandatory, Required, Recommended, and Optional). Each NOT value is summarized with example criteria followed by a statement for each element usage type.

Not Applicable: This NOT value code applies if, at the time of the event documentation, the information requested was "Not Applicable" to the patient, the EMS response, or the patient care provided.

- Example 1: Elements documenting patient assessment and treatment (procedures, medications, etc.) would be "Not Applicable" for a cancelled response.
- Example 2: For patients that did not have a cardiac or respiratory arrest the eArrest elements would be "Not Applicable".

  1. **Mandatory** elements would never contain a "Not Applicable" value.
  2. **Required** elements that meet the example criteria would have "Not Applicable".
  3. **Recommended** elements that meet the example criteria would have "Not Applicable".
  4. **Optional** elements would never contain a "Not Applicable" value.

Not Recorded: This NOT value code applies if a data element is left blank by a user. In this case, if the element is applicable to the call but left blank by the user, the EMS software should auto-populate the field with "Not Recorded". Thus, for example, this NOT value applies if, at the time of patient care documentation, information was not known to the patient, family, bystander or EMS professional. This value should not be available to the user.

- Example 1: A patient may be unconscious, unable to provide medical history information.
- Example 2: A medication is given to a patient prior to this EMS unit's care. In this case, if eMedications.01 (Date/Time Medication Administered) is not known, the system would record "Not Recorded" in this field. If this were a cancelled call, "Not Applicable" would be used in this field.

  1. **Mandatory** elements would never contain a "Not Recorded" value.
  2. **Required** elements that meet the example criteria would have "Not Recorded".
  3. **Recommended** elements that meet the example criteria would have "Not Recorded".
  4. **Optional** elements would never contain a "Not Recorded" value.

Not Reporting: This NOT value applies if a particular data element is purposely not collected by the EMS agency. Note: It is possible that an EMS agency may collect a given data element (such as Beginning Odometer Reading), but their software maps the information to "Not Reporting" when sent to their State. This value should not be available to the user.

- Example 1: If an EMS agency is not collecting a specific element but the element is required for submission to a state EMS system, the value submitted to the state should be "Not Reporting".

  1. **Mandatory** elements would never contain a "Not Reporting" value.
  2. **Required** elements would never contain a "Not Reporting" value.

3. **Recommended** elements that meet the example criteria would have "Not Reporting".
4. **Optional** elements would never contain a "Not Reporting" value.

Note

State elements may be identified as Recommended or Optional. States may require that optional elements be submitted as part of the state dataset. There is caution against doing this, because Optional elements do not allow NOT Values. Requiring an Optional element would require changing the XML schema to allow for NOT Values.