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	Critical
2305003	Emergent
2305005	Lower Acuity
2305007	Non-Acute [e.g., Scheduled Transfer or Standby]

Data Element Comment

The use of acuity values vary by EMS agency. Some systems may utilize fewer than four levels and some more. The use of four 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 = Critical	Charlie = Emergent	Alpha = Lower Acuity
Delta = Critical	Bravo = Emergent	Omega = Non-Acute

Patient Acuity 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 and Non-Acute.