



the person remained in VF);

**or**

- b. Had a sub-therapeutic effect and the symptoms continued (i.e., a bandage applied to a bleeding wound failed to stop the bleeding);

**or**

- c. The nature of the procedure has no direct expected clinical response (i.e., patient assessment).

*NOTE: "Not Applicable" would also be appropriate to choose for these cases*

4. Worse:

- a. The results of the procedure performed lead to a worsening of the patient's symptoms or condition (e.g., defibrillation converted VF into asystole, application of a splint caused significant increase in pain or loss of sensation and pulses).
- b. In the case of worsening condition, documentation of the procedure complications may also be appropriate.
- c. NOTE: Just because a patient got worse, doesn't necessarily mean the clinician performed the procedure incorrectly.

**NEMSIS Data Standards and Limitations**

1. NEMSIS is a national dataset and standard used by all EMS software systems. *(For additional information, go to [www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org).)* Currently there are three versions of the data standard available for documentation and in which data is stored:
  - a. NEMSIS Version 2.2.1 (v2.2.1)
    - i. Adopted in 2006, there have been no changes since release
    - ii. Most states or systems have used this standard since its release, and the majority of most states' data available since approximately 2016 is in this format.
    - iii. NEMSIS accepted v2.2.1 data through 12/31/2016, and some states may continue to collect data in this standard until they transition to NEMSIS v3 standards.
  - b. NEMSIS Version 3 (v3)
    - i. NEMSIS v3 was created and finalized in 2011 to replace v2.2.1 in order to allow the dataset to become more flexible for updates and adopt technical standards making linkage to other health records possible.
      1. NEMSIS v3.3.4 was released in March 2014 and was the first version in production where live data was collected by services and states and subsequently submitted to NEMSIS. NEMSIS will continue to accept v3.3.4 data until 12/31/2017.
      2. NEMSIS v3.4, released in March 2015, included both changed elements and many added values to existing elements. NEMSIS has been accepting data from this version concurrently with V3.3.4 data. As of August 2021, v3.4 will be the only standard and V3.3.4 will be phased out. All documentation guidelines found in this document are based on the NEMSIS v3.4 dataset and standard.
2. Mandatory and Required Elements
  - b. *Mandatory:* NEMSIS makes certain elements or fields mandatory so, if not included, the record cannot be properly stored or moved electronically. These fields require real data and do not accept Nil (Blank) values, Not Values, or Pertinent Negatives.
  - c. *Required:* NEMSIS requires these elements or fields to be completed or the record cannot be properly stored or moved electronically. However, required fields allow Nil (blank) values, Not Values, or Pertinent Negatives to be entered and submitted.