EMS Information Bulletin 2023-05

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SUBJECT: Agency Email Domains for biospatial

TO: All EMS Agencies
              Regional EMS Councils

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The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department), Bureau of EMS (Bureau) participates in the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) which is a standardized national database, a program within the NHTSA Office of EMS. Information is submitted to the national database via the electronic patient care reports EMS providers complete after providing patient care.

In 2023, the Bureau transitioned to biospatial, a database repository vendor. With this transition, the Bureau opted to allow Pennsylvania EMS agencies access to their data in biospatial for Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement purposes.

To ensure and increase the security of information that EMS agencies have access to in biospatial, beginning January 1, 2024, email addresses tied to a biospatial account must have a business or agency email domain such as @anyemsagency.com. or @youremsagency.org. Accordingly, the Department will no longer accept or authorize a user to have access to biospatial whose email address comes from a personal domain such as @gmail.com, @outlook.com, @yahoo.com, etc. Further, this email address should not be a general shared email account. A shared email would be an account that the username and password is shared with other users to give them access to the same account. The user's email account must be an individual email account to have access to biospatial. The email addresses must include the user's name (examples johnsmith@anyagencyname.com or jlsmith@anyagencyname.org).

What does this mean? First, it is important to remember that your EMS agency is **NOT** required to have an account for biospatial for your QA/QI process. This is a tool the Bureau believes is beneficial to your EMS agency. If you would like to access your ePCR data for building QA/QI reports, your agency will now need to use a customized domain.

There are various resources available at a relatively low cost to create your own agency domain name for email. In some cases, your agency may already have a website and could explore with the website host the cost for branded emails. Below are resources you may find helpful.

Specific Non-Profit Technology resources
https://www.google.com/nonprofits/offerings/workspace/
https://www.google.com/nonprofits/
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/microsoft-365?ef_id=_k_077f70d389971cb6a82d1411f1a3cce8_k_&OCID=AIDcmmahtifk1i_SEM__k_077f70d389971cb6a82d1411f1a3cce8_k_&msclkid=077f70d389971cb6a82d1411f1a3cce8
https://www.ionos.com/
https://www.techsoup.org/

Places to purchase domain names
https://www.godaddy.com/
https://domains.google/

Website hosting with branded email domain options
https://www.godaddy.com/
https://cloud.google.com/solutions/web-hosting
https://www.wix.com/
https://wordpress.com/

If your agency would like to continue to have access to biospatial reports and you do not have a domain name established, please begin that process as soon as possible. If your agency already has an established domain name that is assigned to a specific individual, no further action is required.

Once you have the domain name established and have new email account, please provide up to two (2) emails per agency to lodriscoll@pa.gov. This information must be provided by the agency manager and/or president. Once added to biospatial, these users will then have access to the agency's data.

After January 1, 2024, all accounts that have been established utilizing the "generic" domains will be deleted.

If you have any questions, please contact me at lodriscoll@pa.gov.