

Ambulance patient transfer: VEMD data items commencing in 2014-15

Information to assist you with data collection

New Ambulance/ED data items

From 1 July 2014, two new time points will be collected in the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD). The data will be monitored for a period of time for quality purposes. These time points will then be used to calculate and report ambulance transfer times into the Emergency Department (ED).

Objective

To create a single source of data for the measurement of ambulance patient transfer time and thereby:

- share ownership of ambulance patient transfer time information
- improve collaboration between paramedics and ED staff.

Background

In July 2013, the Minister for Health commissioned an Ambulance Transfer Taskforce to develop policy directives on the roles and responsibilities of health services and Ambulance Victoria on the transfer of ambulance patients into the ED. The Taskforce recommended the introduction of the two new time points into the VEMD.

Case for change

Recording these time points in the VEMD will:

- promote shared responsibility and agreement on data relating to the ambulance patient journey in the ED
- improve the availability of ambulance patient transfer information
- increase ambulance patient transfer performance accountability.

Department of Health contacts

Diana Zimmermann – Emergency & Trauma Program

Diana.Zimmermann@health.vic.gov.au

HDSS Help Desk

HDSS.helpdesk@health.vic.gov.au

(03) 9096 8595

Data definitions

'Ambulance at destination' time

Time of ambulance arrival at the hospital and immediately prior to the ambulance paramedic turning the engine off and/or getting out of the vehicle (generated by ambulance paramedics).

'Ambulance handover complete' time

Time when clinical information has been given to the ED clinician taking over care of the patient and the patient has been moved from the ambulance stretcher to the hospital bed, care area or waiting room.

Data collection

Ambulance paramedics and hospital staff have a shared responsibility for collecting and recording the ambulance transfer time points. Ambulance paramedics and hospital staff should familiarise themselves with the ambulance/ED data items in the VEMD Manual 2014-15, available at:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hdss/vemd/index.htm>

Ambulance paramedics are required to:

- record the 'ambulance at destination' time from the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) or RavNet Radio into VACIS and provide the time to hospital staff when the patient is triaged or registered
- agree on the actual time of 'ambulance handover complete' with the ED clinician and enter this time into VACIS.

Hospital staff are required to:

- obtain the 'ambulance at destination' time from paramedics during patient triage or registration and enter this time into the ED information system
- agree on the actual time of 'ambulance handover complete' with the paramedics and enter this time into the ED information system.

A standardised process

Standardisation of hospital process to collect and record the new time points will ensure effective data capture. The Department of Health welcomes your feedback for improving the collection of this data.