

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD  
Commissioner





Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 24-03

Date: June 13, 2024

To: EMS Organizations  
EMS Medical Directors  
EMS Coordinators  
EMS Instructors

From: Raffaella Calciano, RN, M.Ed. Paramedic   
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Richard Kamin, MD, FACEP   
Medical Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Subject: SWORD API Automation Announcement

---

Since June 1, 2019, Connecticut Emergency Medical Services (EMS) clinicians have reported suspected opioid overdoses to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) as part of the Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD). Following each suspected overdose, EMS responders call the CPCC's 1-800- 222-1222 line to report the event and answer a series of questions. CPCC specialists record the information and enter a portion of the data into the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a federal mapping application.

As you may be aware the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has worked diligently with the Department of Public Health Information Technology Department to implement an automated data export to the ODMAP platform. The Application Programming Interface, (API), as the program is referred to, was collaboratively accomplished and is ready for utilization. The program has been active since January of 2024.



Phone: (860) 509-7975 □ Fax: (860) 730-8384  
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1  
1 410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)  
*Affirmative Action/  
Equal Opportunity Employer*



This automated data feed facilitates improvement in the OEMS's ability to assess the overdose landscape and to identify trends more easily. Additionally, it will eliminate the reporting requirement of EMS clinicians to call the CPCC.

As of July 1, 2024, EMS clinicians will **not** be required to call to the CPCC for the reporting of suspected fatal or non-fatal opioid overdoses. Completing an Electronic Patient Care Report will suffice as meeting the reporting requirement going forward.

The new agency filter ID is called Connecticut Department of Public Health, Office of EMS. This new agency filter should be used instead of the old filter titled Connecticut Poison Control Center.

EMS clinicians will be encouraged to enter a rich narrative with descriptions of scene observations, patient presentation, and any other unique details that are important. We have developed a brief video segment, which provides training in Naloxone leave-behind and it also announces the new SWORD reporting model.

The department does not want to discourage services from contacting CPCC with interesting cases, which may involve a cluster of overdoses, multi-patients, or pediatric incidents. Please feel free to call them, just know that it is no longer a requirement.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we strive to bring the practice of EMS into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond!

Cc: Manisha Juthani, MD  
Commissioner  
Jody Terranova, DO, MPA  
Deputy Commissioner  
Adelita S. Orefice, JD, MPM  
Chief of Staff  
Lorrain Cullen, MS, RRT-ACCS  
Branch Chief



Phone: (860) 509-7975 ☐ Fax: (860) 730-8384  
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1  
1 410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)  
*Affirmative Action/  
Equal Opportunity Employer*

