



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What is WARDS?** WARDS is the **Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System**. It has two parts: a FREE – on-line electronic run report generating system and a database tool to track specific elements and generate data reports.
- What is its purpose?** The data system was developed to assist the State of Wisconsin in providing supportive information as to the activities of ambulance service providers in the state. This can be used to support requests for grants, monitor quality care issues, and to some extent - surveillance monitoring for outbreak and public health concerns.  
**All data is secure.** Only you and the system administrator have access to individual service data. State reports use aggregate data from the system without identification of the source. Only the individual EMT on the call report, the service director, and the medical director has access to individual runs for the service they administrate. It has been our goal to provide a system that is cost effective and for those with internet access absolutely free.
- Who has to report or use this system?** All ambulance services (excludes medical first responder groups) are required by rule to submit data as requested by the department. It has been mandated that **all services be active by January 1, 2008**. Active means using the system to generate run reports -or- importing data from your database into the system.
- What do I get out of this?** As a service the benefits are many. A central location for all your patient care data. Access to many data reports for response, quality care, procedures, and others to help your service perform better. **If you have web access at your station or the hospital you can have an electronic run report & data collection system at no cost to you.** If you wish, you can purchase a cost effective "bridge" to use laptops in your squads to do the patient care reports.
- What if I already have a data system?** GREAT! Please contact your data application provider for information regarding the exporting software to send your information directly to WARDS.

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