

## COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Nicole Stanfield

(714) 834-2178

nstanfield@ochca.com

## Orange County Emergency Medical Services to Implement Electronic Medical Records

(Santa Ana) - Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) is transitioning from paper patient care records to a comprehensive Web-based information management system designed to enhance quality of care. When completed next year, the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) will allow near real-time data collection, provide a central location for all records, and automate the licenses and certifications of medical personnel and specialty hospitals.

"OC-MEDS will improve patient care, facilitate the early detection of disease outbreaks, and greatly enhance our ability to assess the OCEMS System," stated Sam Stratton, MD, EMS Medical Director for the Orange County Health Care Agency.

OCEMS developed OC-MEDS in collaboration with local hospitals, fire departments, and ambulance companies to meet the dynamic needs of the Orange County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. Data collected through OC-MEDS can be used for quality assurance, skills tracking, health education and outreach, system improvement, and disease outbreak monitoring. Funding for the software developed by ImageTrend, Inc. was provided by a grant from the Anaheim/Santa Ana Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The project also includes the purchase of mobile data devices to be used by paramedics to document patient care at the time of service. Funding for the Mobile Devices was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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