

Nassau Regional Emergency Medical Services



Advisory	Medical Control Communications	11-09.1
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Effective December 31 2012 the FCC is mandating that all narrow banding of radio frequencies be completed. This narrow banding mandate has a direct effect on most public safety frequencies in use in Nassau County. The current Medical Control frequencies that are being used in Nassau are outdated and the narrow banding initiative would cost the County over a million dollars to complete for radio communications that are sub par. It would also force most provider agencies to have to purchase new radios.

For these reasons it has been decided that the current Medical Control frequencies are targeted to be replaced on December 01, 2012 with the new 500 MHz public safety radios currently in use by NCPD. The 500 MHz radios were designed from the ground up to provide Nassau County first responders with a comprehensive radio solution for all police, fire and EMS communications. This migration will not be done without a cost, but it is necessary to provide quality Medical Control communications well into our future.

Attached are package options for the EMS agencies to consider for this transition. The packages run from a low cost cellular phone option (AT&T, T-Mobile and Nextel only) to a higher cost multiple radio solution. The radios will be available at discounted pricing due to bulk purchase agreements with Nassau County PD and will be approximately \$3500.00 per device.

The migration of these frequencies will also have an effect on telemetry transmissions to Medical Control which are currently done using the radio. Medical Control has started using a Care Point station to receive 12 lead EKGs and this is done using a Rosetta LT box connected to a cellular phone or the Rosetta DS software using a computer based ePCR solution. After the migration to the 500 MHz radios, single lead EKGs will no longer be able to be sent using the radio. The Rosetta LT box cost is approximately \$900.00 per unit. The Rosetta DS software is about \$350.00 to purchase with an annual fee of <\$40.00 / year. The use of a Rosetta product will be necessary for all provider agencies to continue the transmission of telemetry data. The Rosetta products are available through General Devices (<http://www.general-devices.com>) and the point of contact is Curt Bashford (201-313-7075).

If your agency is using an ePCR solution your telemetry data can be transmitted using the Rosetta DS software. This will eliminate the cost of purchasing a Rosetta LT device. At this time there are 4 ePCR solutions being used in Nassau County, Rescue Medic, Sansio, EMS Charts and Red Alert. For more information regarding switching to an ePCR solution please contact Frank Chester at 516-313-2768.

The Nassau Regional EMS Council is dedicated to assist all agencies with making this a smooth transition. Please remember that this is a FCC mandate and the deadline of December 31, 2012 is a concrete date. Please contact your agencies radio vendor to see what additional impacts narrow banding will have on your radios. Medical Control is only one part of the impact this federal mandate will have on our local radio systems.

The NCPD will be applying for a grant to help offset these costs on behalf of the provider agencies. We suggest you budget for these devices in case the grant is not awarded by FEMA.



NASSAU REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL, INC.

2201 Hempstead Turnpike, Bin 78
East Meadow, NY 11554-1859

Phone: 516-542-0025
FAX: 516-542-0049
Email: Remsco@Nassauems.org

Scott Glazer, EMT-CC
Chairman

John J. Hassett, EMT-CC
Executive Director

Vincent A. Papasodero, EMT-CC
Vice Chairman

Paul J. Napoli, EMT-CC
Secretary/Treasurer

Tracy Abamont, EMT-CC
State Council Representative

Medical Control Communication Options

Voice Contact:

- Cellular: This option would include making all medical control voice contacts using a cellular device and would only require a separate cellular/Rosetta device to transmit telemetry. This option has some limitations including the inability to communicate with other units at an MCI. Approximate cost per unit: cost of cellular phone & plan
- Single Radio: Mobile: This option would allow for radio communications with medical control and you would require a separate cellular/Rosetta device to transmit telemetry. Limitations of this option include using your ambulance as medical command when coordinating an MCI. Approximate cost per unit: \$4,400.00 + cost of cellular phone & plan

12L Telemetry:

- Cellular-Voice: This option would allow both voice and telemetry communications with medical control using a Rosetta-Lt device along with your cellular phone. No cellular data plan is required. There is a limitation for telemetry requiring a GSM/iDEN carrier (AT&T, Nextel and T-Mobile) phones. Approximate cost per unit: \$900.00 + cost of cellular phone & plan
- Cellular-Data: This option would allow telemetry communications with medical control using Rosetta-DS software along with your mobile computer and cellular data. If your agency is using tablet/laptop/Toughbook your telemetry data can be transmitted using the Rosetta-DS software through the tablet or computer directly via cellular data air card or hotspot. For Physio monitors, the Rosetta-Lt device is also required. This requires cellular data plan; *Contact General Devices for more information.*
- Cellular-Data Forwarding: This option would allow 12L telemetry communications with medical control using monitor companies transmission forwarding solution. In this case the proprietary monitor solution would forward by email/fax to medical control. This requires additional software & subscriptions as well as cellular data service. *Contact your monitor provider for more information.*