

Time Synchronization Standard

Purpose: To provide accurate and uniform time information for documentation and quality improvement purposes.

Policy: The national atomic clock operated by the United States National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will be used as the uniform time synchronization tool throughout the Genesee county Medical Control Authority. All agencies' equipment and personnel time pieces will be synchronized to the NIST. Standard synchronization checks will be made of all agencies' equipment by that agency.

Policy Detail:

1. Access to a NIST atomic clock is available via the internet at <http://www.time.gov>. This site provides a snapshot time. That is, the time display is static and must be manually updated by clicking onto "update now" button. Synchronization to the NIST will be no more than 30 second variations.
2. Agency equipment synchronization will be done every Wednesday morning from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Equipment includes, but is not limited to dispatch clocks, digital tape recorders, computers, cardiac monitors, AED personal radios, EMS rigs, pages wall/table/standing clocks, and cell phones.
3. Personnel watch synchronization will be the responsibility of the individual providers and done at the beginning of each shift worked.
4. Daylight-savings time changes will be made at 0200 on the appointed dates.

Genesee County Medical Control Authority Emergency Departments' synchronization policies will be the responsibility of that facility, however, it is recommended that patient care involving the receipt of EMS patients follow similar, uniform, NIST time synchronization methodology.