What NEMSIS means about data collection (excerpted from NEMSIS data dictionary version 3.4.0)

Indication of when the data element is expected to be collected.

Mandatory = Must be completed and does not allow for NOT values

Required = Must be completed and allows NOT values
Recommended = Does not need to be completed and allows NOT values

Optional = Does not need to be completed and does not allow for NOT values

For further information, please visit the NEMSIS web site:
https://nemsis.org/technical-resources/version-3/version-3-data-dictionaries/