



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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JEFFREY A. BROWN
Acting Commissioner

April 30, 2025

Christina Oatman

RE: Notice of Summary Suspension
Investigation Control Number: 24-0324
EMS ID: 542329

Dear Ms. Oatman:

The New Jersey Department of Health (Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Emergency Medical Services Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 to 74, which authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics. In furtherance of the Act's statutory objectives, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification, and professional conduct of EMTs and Paramedics. (See N.J.A.C. 8:40-1.1 et seq., 8:40A-1.1 et seq., 8:41-1.1 et seq., and 8:41A-1.1 et seq.)

On May 23, 2024, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that on May 5, 2024, you failed to accurately document a patient encounter and failed to provide advanced life support (ALS) services to a patient, while you were acting in the capacity of a paramedic with Inspira Health Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU). Consistent with the OEMS regulatory authority and policy, OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

From the notification, it was alleged that while staffing Inspira Health MICU Life Support 2, on May 5, 2024, you and your Paramedic partner (D.L.) were dispatched and responded to a 9-1-1 call in Gloucester County, New Jersey for a cardiac emergency. Furthermore, it is alleged that you and D.L. had verbal and visual contact with a patient that was in obvious distress, but you and your partner failed to provide paramedic services to the patient.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigators confirmed that you are currently licensed by the OEMS as a Paramedic in New Jersey and have been licensed in New Jersey since September 25, 2001. Additionally, OEMS investigators confirmed that you were certified as a New Jersey EMT Instructor until June 30, 2018. Thereafter, OEMS reviewed and/or conducted the following as part of its investigation:

1. Inspira Health EMS Policy for Assessment and Triage to BLS;
2. Inspira electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) for the patient involved in the call in question;

3. Gloucester County EMS ePCR for the patient involved in the call in question;
4. Emergency Department Patient Care Record (PCR) for the patient involved in the call in question,
5. Franklin Twp. Police Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage capturing video of the call;
6. Gloucester County Dispatch Communications; and
7. Interviews with you, your partner, and the Gloucester County EMS BLS crewmembers.

From its investigation to date, OEMS investigators have determined the following:

1. You signed the Inspira Health ePCR, on May 5, 2024, at 12:26 hrs., for which you documented that you were dispatched on May 5, 2024, at 00:07 hrs., responded at 00:08 hrs., arrived on scene at 00:20 hrs., and were available at 00:38 hrs. Though you documented being on scene for eighteen (18) minutes, you also documented that you were cancelled on scene by BLS, with no patient contact. However, you confirmed through your ePCR that you were aware of the large amount of blood loss the patient experienced. Additionally, BWC proves that you and D.L. were in the same room with the patient for at least ten (10) minutes and had visual and voice contact with the patient. In fact, you or D.L. questioned BLS on factors pertaining to the patient's condition and directly asked the patient questions;
2. You or D.L. telephoned the dispatch center that received the 9-1-1 call from the patient, on two separated occasions, while on scene, for which it was relayed to you or D.L., by a dispatcher, that the patient reported having a rapid heart rate and passed out once. Additionally, you or D.L. relayed to dispatch "It looks like someone got murdered in this house...There is blood from one end of the house to the other."
3. At no point did BLS verbally cancel you or D.L., nor did they make any indication that signified your services as a Paramedic were not warranted. In fact, the BLS provided you and D.L. with their findings after they assessed the patient, which were that the patient's heart rate was over 140 beats per minute;
4. In accordance with Inspira Health EMS policy for Assessment and Triage to BLS, after an assessment of a patient a paramedic must contact online medical command prior to releasing a patient to BLS when any one of several conditions are encountered. These conditions include altered mental status either observed or reported, chest pain current or resolved, syncope or near syncope either observed or reported, pulse oximetry $\leq 94\%$, or an adult patient with a heart rate greater 120. You were unable to determine this, because you and D.L. failed to assess the patient, though the patient clearly warranted an assessment and subsequent treatment.
5. Though you failed to assess the patient and determine the severity of the patient's injuries, the BLS crew determined that the patient merited transport to a trauma center, which they did. At the trauma center, the patient required immediate lifesaving interventions, which should have been initiated by you and D.L. as the Paramedics.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41-9.15(a), "patients with whom a crewmember makes physical or verbal contact shall be evaluated to determine the nature of their illness and/or injury." Based upon the above, the OEMS finds that you failed to assess your patient with whom you were in physical and verbal contact, in clear violation of N.J.A.C. 8:41-9.15(a).

Additionally, N.J.A.C. 8:41-9.15(c) provides that "the policies, and procedures for release of a patient to BLS by an ALS crewmember shall be determined by the program's medical director". From its investigation to date, the OEMS finds that you failed to comply with Inspira Health EMS Assessment and Triage to BLS, in violation of N.J.A.C. 8:41-9.15(c).

Furthermore, N.J.A.C. 8:41-3.3(a)(3) requires paramedics to "provid[e] the patient with prompt, effective and appropriate medical care and N.J.A.C. 8:41-3.3(a)(8) requires ALS crewmembers to "continually monitor the patient's condition and equipment while providing necessary intervention according to the medical command physician..." Your actions demonstrate a violation of these rules because you not only failed to provide your patient with prompt, effective and appropriate medical care but you also failed to provide necessary interventions as directed by medical command for your seriously ill patient. Indeed, you never contacted medical command regarding your seriously ill patient.

As you are aware, Paramedics must make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate medical interventions in difficult field locations for patients young and old, combative, and docile. To effectively care for all patients, Paramedics must exercise good judgment and treat patients with dignity, respect and adhere to agency policy. They are entrusted by the public to be there in times of need. Thus, Paramedics must trust each other and be trusted by police officers, firefighters, doctors, and other professionals to provide effective and appropriate care to patients who are suffering medical emergencies.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department has determined that your Paramedic License must be **summarily suspended**. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.2(a), "[t]he Commissioner, or his or her designee, may summarily suspend a person's Paramedic certification when, in his or her opinion, the continued certification of that person poses an immediate or serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare." See also N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2 (providing that an EMT's certification may be summarily suspend if the EMT poses an immediate or serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare). The above actions demonstrate that you have poor judgment, a lack of trustworthiness, failed to provide appropriate advanced life support care to a patient, failed to recognize the need for and administer advanced medical intervention to a patient, negligent practice, in violation of N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.2(b)(3), abandonment of a patient, in violation of N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.2(b)(5), and willful preparation of false medical reports, in violation of N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.2(b)(9). Your flagrant disregard of your critically ill patient care and disregard of your duties as a paramedic, as set out in the Department's rules, evidence your inability to provide effective and necessary care to patients in need of advanced life support and, in turn, demonstrates that you pose a threat to public health, safety, and welfare. **Therefore, your license as a Paramedic and EMT is immediately suspended. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of, or perform the duties of an EMT or Paramedic in New Jersey during this period of suspension.**

In the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter. After OEMS completes its investigation, you will be advised of what final action, if any, the OEMS will take with respect to your EMT and Paramedic License.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.3 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(b), you may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department of Health for emergency relief to contest this summary suspension. Your request for a hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. Please include the control number **24-0324** on your correspondence and forward your request to.

New Jersey Department of Health
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Failure to submit a written request for a hearing within 30 days shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision, thereby negating any further appeal rights. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Daniel Kazar at (609) 633-7777 or via email at Daniel.Kazar@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Dana B. Johnson, MPH, CHES
Assistant Commissioner
Disaster Preparedness, Resiliency, and
Emergency Medical Services

c: Daniel Kazar, Chief, Education, Licensure and Enforcement, OEMS
Kirsten Posselt, OEMS Investigator
Inspira Health
NREMT

SENT VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL #
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED