



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR EMS PERSONNEL PRACTICE

Draft Position Paper 2023-02 Privilege to Practice Code of Conduct

Introduction

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Medical professions adopt codes of conduct to reinforce expectations, establish, and maintain professional standards of behavior and ethical conduct. These codes serve as guidelines that outline the expected conduct, responsibilities, and ethical principles that healthcare professionals should adhere to in their practice. The Hippocratic Oath, which is one of the oldest and most well-known codes of conduct in healthcare, has been a guiding principle for physicians for centuries. Its emphasis on ethical principles such as confidentiality, honesty, and respect for patients has influenced the development of modern codes of conduct for healthcare professionals.

The EMS Compact has nearly 400,000 individual EMS Practitioners with a Privilege to Practice in 24 Member States. There is a need for a unified Code of Conduct that is adopted and implemented by all states and jurisdictions licensing EMS personnel. Codes of conduct help in ensuring high standards of behavior and ethical conduct in the field and they serve as a critical tool in maintaining public trust in the profession. Therefore, the EMS Compact is calling upon State Licensing authorities to collaborate in the development and adoption of a Uniform EMS Code of Conduct.

Sample Uniform Code of Conduct

To assist with this process, the following Sample Uniform EMS Code of Conduct is being offered as a starting point:

As a professional EMS Practitioner, I commit to upholding the following code of conduct:

- Promote professionalism and provide competent emergency medical care to all people.
- Use my professional knowledge and skills to promote health, alleviate suffering, and do no harm.
- Treat all patients with respect, compassion, and dignity.
- Assume responsibility to uphold professional standards and education, striving to provide competent medical care to every patient that I encounter.
- Advocate for patients that lack medical decision-making capacity and ensure equal access to medical services.
- Act responsibly, ethically, and lawfully to enhance the reputation of the profession.
- Work cooperatively with other healthcare professionals in the best interests of our patients.
- Act with honesty by being objective, truthful, and complete. I will include all relevant information in data collection and reporting, statements, applications, and testimony.
- Acknowledge errors and will not distort or alter facts.
- Exercise a level of care and judgment consistent with my level of licensure, certification, and training.
- Abide by all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and permits.

Furthermore, I understand that as an EMS Practitioner licensed in the state of << State >>:

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- It is my professional responsibility and obligation to read, understand, and comply with all << State >> statutes and regulations related to the provision of Emergency Medical Services.
- I can only function as an EMS Practitioner if my license is current, and I have authorization from an EMS Medical Director.
- Maintaining my license and tracking my expiration date is my individual responsibility.

As an EMS Practitioner, I acknowledge and understand that:

- The State may review and request further information for consideration about any violation of any state or federal law, rules, regulations including but not limited to violations that have been dismissed, deferred, or sealed when determining my fitness to practice as an EMS Practitioner.
- Failure to follow this code of conduct provides just cause for disciplinary action by the Department.
- Sanctions or discipline imposed on my license will be a public record and final dispositions will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

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