

**641—131.6(147A,272C) Discipline—denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension, or revocation of certificates or renewal.**

**131.6(1)** This rule is not subject to waiver pursuant to 441—Chapter 6 or any other provision of law.

**131.6(2)** Prohibited grounds for discipline. The department will not suspend or revoke the certification of a person who is in default or is delinquent on repayment or a service obligation under federal or state postsecondary educational loans or public or private services-conditional postsecondary tuition assistance solely on the basis of such default or delinquency.

**131.6(3)** Methods of discipline.

*a.* The department has the authority to impose the following disciplinary sanctions against an emergency medical care provider:

- (1) Issue a citation and warning.
- (2) Impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.
- (3) Require reexamination.
- (4) Require additional education or training.
- (5) Impose a period of probation under specific conditions.

(6) Prohibit permanently, until further order of the department, or for a specific period, a provider's ability to engage in specific procedures, methods, acts or activities incident to the practice of the profession.

- (7) Suspend a certificate until further order of the department or for a specific period.
- (8) Deny an application for certification.
- (9) Revoke a certification.
- (10) Impose such other sanctions as allowed by law and as may be appropriate.

*b.* A request for inactive status in connection with a disciplinary investigation or proceeding has the same effect as an order of revocation.

*c.* A citation and warning, denial, probation, restriction, suspension, revocation, or civil penalty imposed upon an individual certificate holder by the department will be considered applicable to all certificates and endorsements issued to that individual by the department.

*d.* An emergency medical care provider who has knowledge of an emergency medical care provider, service program or training program that has violated Iowa Code chapter 147A or these rules shall report such information to the department within 30 days.

**131.6(4)** The department may deny an application for issuance or renewal of an emergency medical care provider certificate, including endorsement, or may impose any of the disciplinary sanctions provided in subrule 131.6(3) when it finds that the individual or certificate holder has committed any of the following acts or offenses:

- a.* Negligence in performing emergency medical care.
- b.* Failure to follow the directions of supervising physicians or their designees.
- c.* Rendering treatment not authorized under Iowa Code chapter 147A.
- d.* Patient abandonment.
- e.* Fraud in procuring certification or renewal, including but not limited to:

(1) An intentional perversion of the truth in making application for a certification to practice in this state;

(2) False representations of a material fact, whether by word or by conduct, by false or misleading allegations, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed when making application for a certification in this state; or

(3) Attempting to file or filing with the department or training program any false or forged diploma or certificate or affidavit or identification or qualification in making an application for a certification in this state.

*f.* Professional incompetency. Professional incompetency includes but is not limited to:

(1) A substantial lack of knowledge or ability to discharge professional obligations within the scope of practice.

(2) A substantial deviation from the standards of learning or skill ordinarily possessed and applied by other emergency medical care providers in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances.

(3) A failure to exercise the degree of care that is ordinarily exercised by the average emergency medical care provider acting in the same or similar circumstances.

(4) Failure to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of certified emergency medical care providers in this state.

(5) A substantial lack of knowledge or ability to discharge professional obligations within the minimum clinical standards approved by the department.

*g.* Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of the profession or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. Proof of actual injury need not be established. Acts that may constitute unethical conduct include but are not limited to:

(1) Verbally or physically abusing a patient, coworker or any other individual encountered while a certified emergency medical care provider.

(2) Improper sexual contact with or making suggestive, lewd, lascivious or improper remarks or advances to a patient, coworker or any other individual encountered while certified as an emergency medical care provider in the state of Iowa.

(3) Betrayal of a professional confidence.

(4) Engaging in a professional conflict of interest.

(5) Falsification of medical records, official documents or other writings or records.

*h.* Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert a department investigation.

*i.* Failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the department or failure to cooperate with an investigation of the department.

*j.* Failure to comply with the terms of a department order or the terms of a settlement agreement or consent order.

*k.* Failure to report another emergency medical care provider to the department for any violations listed in these rules pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 147A.

*l.* Knowingly aiding, assisting or advising a person to unlawfully practice EMS.

*m.* Representing oneself as an emergency medical care provider when one's certification has been suspended or revoked or when one's certification is lapsed or has been placed on inactive status.

*n.* Permitting the use of a certification by a noncertified person for any purpose.

*o.* Mental or physical inability reasonably related to and adversely affecting the emergency medical care provider's ability to practice in a safe and competent manner as determined by an evaluation from a licensed evaluator of the provider's mental or physical status.

*p.* Being adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.

*q.* Sexual harassment of a patient, student, coworker or any other individual encountered while certified as an emergency medical care provider in the state of Iowa. Sexual harassment includes sexual advances, sexual solicitation, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature communicated in person, in writing, via a third person or through electronic communication.

*r.* Habitual intoxication or addiction to drugs.

(1) The inability of an emergency medical care provider to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of the excessive use of alcohol on a continuing basis.

(2) The excessive use of drugs that may impair an emergency medical care provider's ability to practice with reasonable skill or safety.

(3) Obtaining, possessing, attempting to obtain or possess, or administering controlled substances without lawful authority.

*s.* Fraud in representation as to skill, ability or certification.

*t.* Willful or repeated violations of Iowa Code chapter 147A or these rules.

*u.* Conviction of a disqualifying offense. A copy of the guilty plea or order of conviction constitutes conclusive evidence of conviction.

*v.* Having certification to practice emergency medical care suspended or revoked or having other disciplinary action taken by a licensing or certifying authority of this state or another state, territory or country. A copy of the record or order of suspension, revocation or disciplinary action is conclusive or prima facie evidence.

- w. Falsifying certification renewal reports or failure to comply with the renewal audit request.
- x. Acceptance of any fee by fraud or misrepresentation.
- y. Repeated failure to comply with standard precautions for preventing transmission of infectious diseases as issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- z. Violating privacy and confidentiality. An emergency medical care provider shall not disclose or be compelled to disclose patient information unless disclosure is required or authorized by law.
  - aa. Discrimination. An emergency medical care provider shall not practice, condone, or facilitate discrimination against a patient, student, or any other individual encountered while acting as certified as an emergency medical care provider in the state of Iowa on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, mental or physical disability, diagnosis, or social or economic status.
  - ab. Practicing emergency medical services or using a designation of certification or otherwise holding oneself out as practicing emergency medical services at a certain level of certification when the emergency medical care provider is not certified at such level.
  - ac. Failure to respond within 30 days of receipt, unless otherwise specified, to communication from the department that was sent by registered or certified mail.

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