



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JEFFREY A. BROWN
Acting Commissioner

June 9, 2025

Christina Oatman

RE: Notice of Proposed Revocation
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 was 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 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, 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 separate 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 than 120. While the BLS crew advised you that the patient's heart rate was over 140 beats per minute, you failed to assess the patient and contact medical command consistent with Inspira's policy, even 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.

While the Department was completing its investigation, it determined that you posed an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. Accordingly, the Department summarily suspended your EMT and Paramedic licenses on April 30, 2025.

The Department has now completed its investigation. From its investigation, the Department has determined that you committed serious regulatory violations and by doing so you unnecessarily placed your patient's health, safety and well-being in jeopardy.

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, the OEMS finds that you failed to comply with Inspira Health's 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 contact medical command regarding your seriously ill patient and thus failed to obtain necessary medical command orders to properly care for your patient who was experiencing an obvious medical emergency.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department has determined that your EMT and Paramedic Licenses must be **revoked**. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.2(b), “[t]he Commissioner, or his or her designee, may issue a formal written warning, impose a monetary penalty, place on probation, suspend, revoke and/or refuse to issue or renew the certification of any EMT-Paramedic for violation of any rules set forth in this chapter. This shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Demonstrated incompetence or inability to provide adequate services;
3. Negligent practice;
5. Abuse or abandonment of a patient;
20. Failure to provide appropriate ALS care and/or to recognize the need for and to provide for more advanced medical intervention; and
26. Any other action deemed by the Department to pose a threat to public health, safety or welfare.

[Ibid. See also N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2 (setting forth substantially the same reasons for revocation of an EMT certification as set out in N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.2)].

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, and abandonment of a patient who required advanced life support services. Additionally, your statement on the patient’s ePCR that you were cancelled on scene by BLS, with no patient contact, was a clearly false. Even more, your flagrant disregard of the critical nature of your patient and failure to discharge 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, demonstrate that you pose a threat to public health, safety, and welfare.

Therefore, the Department proposes to revoke your EMT Certification and Paramedic License. You are reminded that you remain under a summary suspension and, as a result, are PROHIBITED from acting the capacity of an EMT and Paramedic.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.3 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(b), you may request a hearing within thirty (30) calendar days after the mailing of this proposed action. 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
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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 and rendering this notice a final agency decision. 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
NREMT

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