



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

www.nj.gov/health

DR. RAYNARD E. WASHINGTON
Commissioner

October 1, 2026

Yitzchok Birnhack
Jackson NJ Jewish Volunteer Ambulance, Inc
a.k.a. Hatzulas Nefashos
[REDACTED]

**Re: Notice of Cease and Desist
Investigation Control # 26-0323**

Dear Mr. Birnhack:

The New Jersey Department of Health (Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., which was enacted, in part, to ensure that hospital and related health care services rendered in New Jersey are of the highest quality. As defined at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-2(b), health care services include ambulance services. The Department is also charged with enforcing the provisions of the Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 to 74, which authorizes the Department to regulate Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers that operate in this State as well their vehicles. In furtherance of the aforementioned statutory objectives, the Department has adopted rules that govern the licensure and inspection of ambulance providers and their vehicles, as well as the licensure and inspection of ALS service providers and their vehicles. Those rules are set forth in their entirety at N.J.A.C. 8:40-1.1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 8:41-1.1 et seq., respectively.

On April 21, 2026, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that an ambulance operated by Hatzulas Nefashos may have transported a patient on a mechanical ventilator from Manchester Township, New Jersey, to Baltimore, Maryland. Consistent with OEMS regulatory authority and policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed Jackson NJ Jewish Volunteer Ambulance, Inc, applied for a license to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) services under the name of Hatzulas Nefashos on June 5, 2024, and the application was rejected on September 6, 2024, because the application was incomplete. Then, on May 7, 2026, Jackson NJ Jewish Volunteer Ambulance submitted a second application to OEMS for a license to provide BLS services, which was rejected on May 12, 2026, due to multiple errors in the application. From its review, it was determined by OEMS that neither Hatzulas Nefashos nor Jackson NJ Jewish Volunteer Ambulance has ever been licensed by the Department to provide any level of emergency medical services in this State, including ALS level of care.

The Department's investigation determined that on April 18, 2026, an ambulance bearing the name Hatzulas Nefashos on its exterior was observed in a neighborhood in

Manchester Township, New Jersey, at approximately 2:00 pm. The investigation further determined that the individuals operating the ambulance had placed a chronically ill patient onto an ambulance stretcher into the patient compartment of the vehicle. This patient was determined to be dependent on a mechanical ventilator for respiratory support.

On April 18, 2026, at approximately 6:30 pm, an ambulance displaying vehicle recognition number H-908 and bearing the name Hatzulas Nefashos on its exterior was observed entering the ambulance entrance at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Three males, two females, and one patient were observed exiting the ambulance. One of the males was wearing a vest displaying the name "Hatzulas Nefashos Vol. EMS" on the back, along with a blue Star of Life emblem.

The patient was observed in a Semi-Fowler's position on a Stryker ambulance stretcher. A Stryker/Physio-Control LIFEPAK 15 cardiac monitor was positioned between the stretcher backrest and the equipment tray. A mechanical ventilator located at the foot of the stretcher was connected to the patient via corrugated ventilator tubing.

Based upon its investigation, OEMS has concluded that Hatzulas Nefashos operated as an advanced life support (ALS) provider and provided ALS care to a chronically ill patient without an OEMS license, in violation of N.J.S.A. 26:2K-12(a)(1).

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2K-12(a)(1):

"[o]nly a hospital exclusively authorized to develop and maintain advanced life support services in the municipality in which the trauma center is located. . . , or a hospital authorized by the commissioner with an accredited emergency department may develop and maintain a mobile intensive care unit, and provide advanced life support services utilizing licensed physicians, registered professional nurses trained in advanced life support nursing, and mobile intensive care paramedics."

[See also N.J.A.C. 8:41-12.5(a) providing that "no person, public or private institution, agency, entity, corporation, acute care hospital or business concern shall operate a mobile intensive care program, specialty care transport service or air medical service within the State of New Jersey until licensed by the Department.]

The Department's rules, namely N.J.A.C. 8:41-1.1, define ALS as

"an advanced level pre-hospital, interfacility or emergency medical care that includes basic life support functions, **cardiac monitoring**, cardiac defibrillation, telemetered electrocardiography, administration of anti-arrhythmic agents, intravenous (IV) therapy, administration of specific medications, drugs and solutions, utilization of adjunctive ventilation devices, trauma care and other techniques and procedures authorized in writing by the Commissioner." (Emphasis added).

Even more, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 defines a mobile intensive care unit as "a specialized emergency medical service unit that is . . . operated for the provision of advanced life support services under the direction of an authorized hospital."

Neither Jackson NJ Jewish Volunteer Ambulance, Inc. nor Hatzulas Nefashor, is a

hospital authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Health to operate as an ALS provider and is not licensed by the Department to render ALS level of care or operate a mobile intensive care unit. Yet, Hatzulas Nefashor was clearly providing ALS level of care to a seriously ill patient on April 18, 2026, as it used a cardiac monitor, specifically a Stryker/Physio-Control LIFEPAK cardiac monitor, on a patient who was on a ventilator, operated as a MICU and transported the patient to an acute care hospital. As such, Hatzulas provided ALS level of care to a critically ill patient and operated as an ALS provider without a license, in direct violation of N.J.S.A. 26:2k-12(a)(1) and the rules promulgated thereunder.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department hereby **orders Jackson NJ Jewish Volunteer Ambulance, Inc., pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41-12.5, to immediately CEASE AND DESIST** from acting in the capacity of a mobile intensive care program and providing advanced life support services. The Department reserves the right to pursue appropriate civil and/or criminal sanctions against you if you fail to take the requested action.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41-12.5(a)(1), this decision is a final agency action. You may, however, seek judicial review of this decision by filing an appeal with the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division. Pursuant to New Jersey Court Rules 2:2-3 and 2:4-1, you may appeal the final agency decision within 45 days to:

New Jersey Superior Court – Appellate Division
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 006
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0970

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Zachary Raab at (609) 633-7777 or at Zachary.Raab@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,


Candace Gardner, Paramedic
Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Daniel Kazar, Deputy Director of Operations, OEMS
Zachary Raab, Supervisor of Investigations, OEMS
Thomas Livecchi, Regulatory Officer, OEMS
Scott Legore, Director, MIEMSS
New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
File

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