



NC Department of Health and Human Services

NCOEMS Chief 101

Credentialed Provider-Chemical Dependency Program Title



Mission Statement

The Mission of the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services “Chemical Addiction or Abuse Treatment Program” is to provide eligible credentialed EMS Professionals suffering from chemical addiction or abuse a non-punitive means for treatment and rehabilitation and ultimately, full restoration of their ability to practice in their chosen field of emergency medical care.



History & Authority

- **The Department of Health and Human Services is required pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-509(13) to establish programs aiding in the recovery and rehabilitation of EMS personnel who experience chemical addiction or abuse and programs for monitoring EMS personnel for safe practice.**
- **Through the rules of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission (10A NCAC 13P .1401), the Office of EMS is identified as the entity responsible for the provision of the services authorized by statute.**



History & Authority

- **NCOEMS is the Department's recognized agent.**
- **NCOEMS monitors compliance of the individuals participating in the treatment program.**
- **Additional Information – contact:**
 - Credentialing & Compliance Manager**
 - NCOEMS – 2707 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2707**
 - (919) 855-3935**



About the Program

- **Highly structured, voluntary, non-disciplinary program requiring total abstinence.**
- **Designed to enlist the voluntary participation of credentialed EMS personnel whose capacity to practice EMS care with a reasonable skill and safety has been or may be compromised by chemical dependence.**



About the Program

- **Treatment program that provides structure, support, monitoring and guidance of participating credentialed personnel;**
- **Offers a program for recovery through therapeutic and non-punitive process.**
- **Participation in the program is not published unless disclosure is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public or as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.**



Program Objectives

- **Ensure the health and safety of the public by closely monitoring EMS credentialed personnel.**
- **Achieve earlier intervention with intent to decrease the time between personnel's acknowledgement of chemical dependency and entry into the recovery process.**
- **Return personnel to safe and effective practice while minimizing financial impact on the individual.**
- **Provide opportunity for personnel to rehabilitate in a therapeutic, non-punitive, and non-published process.**



Criteria for Admission

- **Acknowledge, in writing, the actions that violated the performance requirement.**
- **Voluntarily agree to participate.**
- **Cease in the direct delivery of any patient care and surrender all EMS credentials until such time an individual is eligible for issuance of an encumbered EMS credential.**
- **Accept responsibility for any and all costs associated with the program.**



Criteria for Denial of Admission

- **An individual is not eligible for participation in the program when:**
 - They have been charged or convicted of diverting chemicals for the purpose of sale, distribution, dealing or selling illicit drugs.
 - Is under investigation or subject to pending criminal charges by law enforcement.



How the Program Works

- **Individual's EMS credential is voluntarily surrendered to NCOEMS.**
- **The individual may petition for issuance of an encumbered EMS credential in order to become eligible to return to restricted practice.**
- **Individual shall be monitored until successful completion of the treatment program.**



How the Program Works

- **Individual's EMS credential is voluntarily surrendered to NCOEMS.**
- **The individual may petition for issuance of an encumbered EMS credential in order to become eligible to return to restricted practice.**
- **Individual shall be monitored until successful completion of the treatment program.**



How the Program Works

- **Individual shall be required to submit to random drug screenings.**
- **Attend three self-help recovery meetings each week for the first year and two each week for the remainder of participation in the treatment program.**
- **Reports and evaluations from the individual's treatment program shall be provided upon request.**



Reinstatement Process

- **Submit a written request for issuance of an encumbered EMS credential.**
- **In order to obtain an encumbered EMS credential with limited privileges:**
 - **Be compliant for a minimum of ninety (90) consecutive days with the treatment program;**
 - **Documentation must be submitted (evaluations, letters of support from treatment counselor, document of evidence of compliance with the treatment program contract).**



Reinstatement Process

- **Practice restrictions and privilege limitations of the encumbered EMS credential will be detailed in a consent agreement.**
- **Consequences of failure to abide by the terms of the consent agreement will be specified.**
- **Credentialing & Compliance Manager may be contacted for additional information regarding the issuance of an encumbered EMS credential.**
- **A teleconference must be conducted with the EMS System Administrator and Medical Director prior to the individual being approved to function within the EMS system.**



Reinstatement Process

- **Reinstatement of an unencumbered EMS credential is dependent upon the individual successfully completing all requirements of the treatment program.**
- **Individuals who fail to complete the treatment program are subject to revocation of their EMS credential.**



Summary & Questions

