

2020 Rule Change Summary

Alabama EMS Rules

Southeast Alabama Emergency Medical Services



**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
CHAPTER 420-2-1
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**



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420-2-1-.02

Definitions

- Added new definitions: "Abandonment", "Duty to Act", "Dereliction of Duty", "Definitive Care Facility", "Drug diversion", and "Tactical Paramedic."
- Under "Critical Care Paramedic" definition, added Certified Transport Registered Nurse and Certified Flight Registered Nurse certifications.
- Re-numbered accordingly.



Definitions

420-2-1-.02

Abandonment

The unilateral termination of the provider/patient relationship at a time when continuing care is still needed. This includes the termination of care without the patient's consent.

Definitions

420-2-1-.02

Duty to Act

A legal and moral obligation requiring an EMSP to take necessary action to prevent harm to another person or to the general public, while on duty at a licensed provider service to include, but not limited to: responding to calls in an expeditious but safe manner; performing a thorough assessment of both the patient and the emergency scene; providing appropriate treatment to a patient; and transporting to an appropriate receiving facility when transport is warranted and consented.

Definitions

420-2-1-.02

Dereliction of Duty

The person willfully or negligently failed to perform his or her duties or performed them in a culpably inefficient manner.

Definitions

420-2-1-.02

Definitive Care Facility

A facility that has the capability to render care to conclusively manage a patient's current medical condition. This may include, but is not limited to, facilities such as urgent care facilities, family practice facilities, doctor's offices, and emergency departments.

Definitions

420-2-1-.02

Drug Diversion

The transfer of any legally prescribed substance from the individual for whom it was prescribed, to another person for any illicit or unintended use.

Definitions

420-2-1-.02

Tactical Paramedic

A paramedic endorsed by the OEMS and certified by the International Board of Specialty Certifications (IBSC) as a Tactical Paramedic-Certified (TP-C). This certification grants all current protocols to be Category A, with the utilization of an expanded scope of practice and medication formulary only when the individual has received the current endorsement on his or her EMSP license issued by the OEMS and is actively engaged in a tactical operation with a law enforcement agency.

Definitions

420-2-1-.02

Under “Critical Care Paramedic” definition, added Certified Transport Registered Nurse and Certified Flight Registered Nurse certifications.

Critical Care Paramedic

A paramedic endorsed by the OEMS, certified by the International Board of Specialty Certifications (IBSC) as Critical Care Paramedic – Certified (CCP-C) or Flight Paramedic – Certified (FP-C) or by the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing as a Certified Flight Registered Nurse (CFRN) or Certified Transport Registered Nurse (CTRN).

Re-numbered pages accordingly

The addition of content has required many pages to be re-numbered to reflect the current location of the materials in the updated EMS Rules.



420-2-1-.06 Medical Direction

Added language that allows
a board eligible physician to
obtain a MDPID number

Medical Direction

420-2-1-.06

Added language that allows a board eligible physician to obtain a MDPID number

(2) On-line Medical Directors shall:

(b) Hold and maintain a current ACLS and ATLS certificate or be board certified in emergency medicine by a board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Pediatric physicians shall hold and maintain a current PALS certificate or be board certified in pediatric emergency medicine. An individual who is considered board eligible may complete the Alabama EMS Medical Directors Course and be issued an OEMS MDPID number but his or her MDPID number will only remain valid for up to 5 years, at which time the individual must submit his or her certificate after completion of residency to remain current.

420-2-1-.07

Licensure Status Categories

- Deleted “Unrestricted” category
- Added new “Restricted” category



Licensure Status Categories

420-2-1-.07

Deleted "Unrestricted" category / Added new "Restricted" category

(a) Restricted – A restricted license may be granted by the Board to an individual who no longer meets the essential functions of an EMSP as outlined in the Functional Job Analysis available at [\(CLICK HERE\)](#) in the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, National Standard Curriculum. An individual with a restricted license status may not perform the functions of an active EMSP until such time as the individual completes an essential job functions analysis form that states the EMSP is able to perform the duties set forth in the Functional Job Analysis.



420-2-1-.08

Initial Licensure Qualifications for EMS Personnel

Added language to
include a dual
enrollment student

Initial Licensure Qualifications for EMS Personnel

420-2-1-.08

Added language to include a dual enrollment student

(1) Initial EMSP qualifications are:

(a) The license candidate shall be 18 years of age within 1 year of the course completion date of the entry level course. Candidate must be a high school graduate or have a GED equivalent, or **have completed a high school dual enrollment course.**

420-2-1-.10

License Expiration, Renewal, and Reinstatement for EMS Personnel

- Added language stating that National Registry must be maintained for licensure.
- Added language stating if a license is revoked, then the individual must wait a minimum of 2 years to reapply.



License Expiration, Renewal, and Reinstatement for EMS Personnel

420-2-1-.10

Added language stating that National Registry must be maintained for licensure.

(5) An individual who was licensed prior to 1986 and was not required to obtain NREMT certification for initial licensure will be granted amnesty for the requirement of maintaining NREMT certification. In lieu of the NREMT certification requirement, these individuals may submit current OEMS continuing education requirements and OEMS approved adult and pediatric protocol education. **If NREMT certification is obtained, it must be maintained for continued licensure.**

License Expiration, Renewal, and Reinstatement for EMS Personnel

420-2-1-.10

Note for EMT Intermediates

(5) An individual who was licensed prior to 1986 and was not required to obtain NREMT certification for initial licensure will be granted amnesty for the requirement of maintaining NREMT certification. In lieu of the NREMT certification requirement, these individuals may submit current OEMS continuing education requirements and OEMS approved adult and pediatric protocol education. If NREMT certification is obtained, it must be maintained for continued licensure.

(10) Renewal Level Requirements:

(c) EMT-Intermediate (I-85):

1. A completed application and the 2-year license renewal fee in the form of a check, money order, credit card, debit card, or cash.
2. OEMS approved adult and pediatric protocols update and full course certificate.
3. Meet the OEMS continuing education requirements.

License Expiration, Renewal, and Reinstatement for EMS Personnel

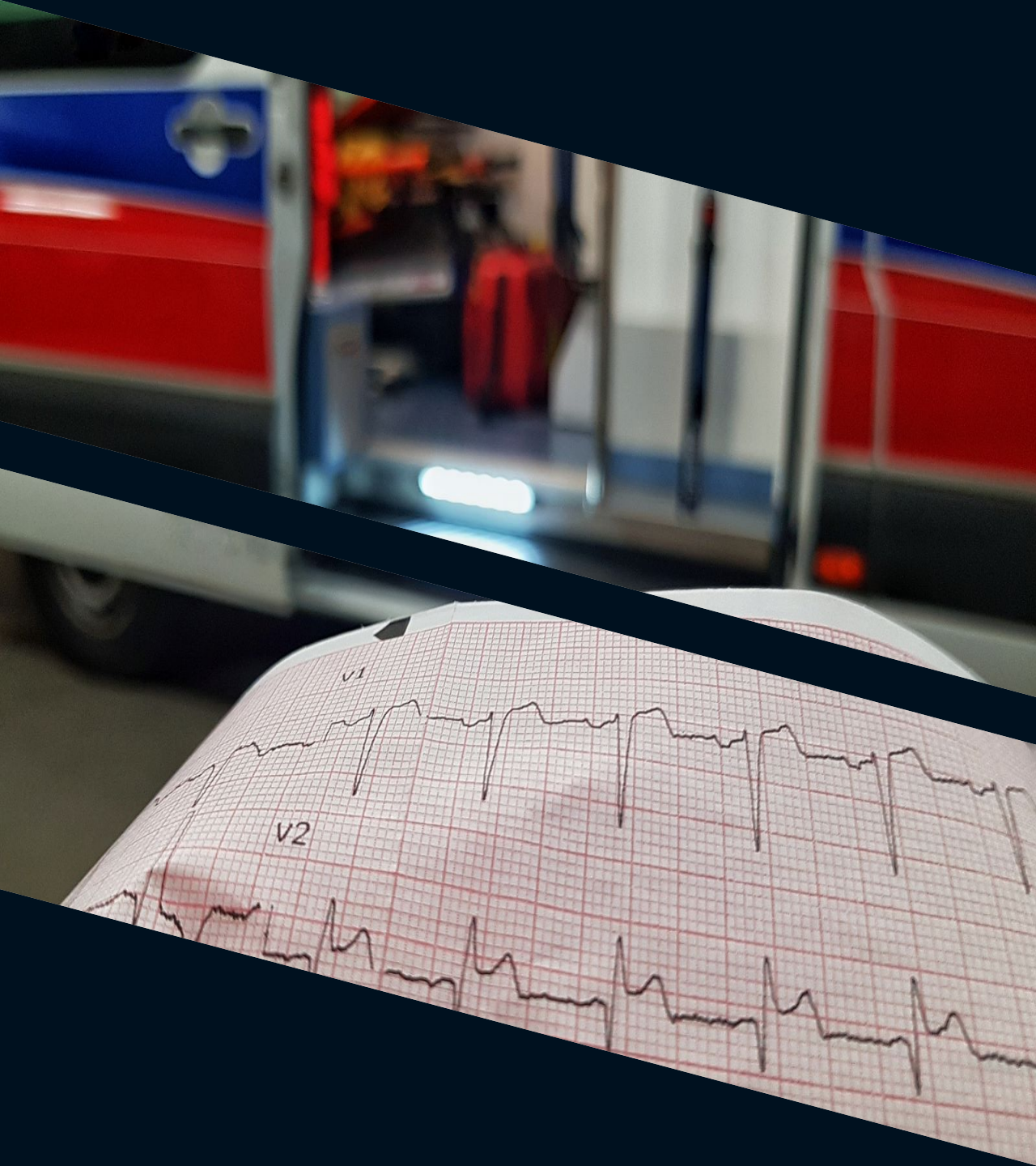
420-2-1-.10

Added language stating if a license is revoked, then the individual must wait a minimum of 2 years to reapply

(6) An individual whose license has been revoked may reapply for licensure no less than 2 years after the licensure action was taken.

(7) An individual whose application was denied and whose denial was unsuccessfully appealed at a hearing may reapply for licensure no less than 2 years after the date the final order was rendered.

(8) An individual who chose to consent to surrender his or her license to avoid a hearing and possible adverse licensure action may reapply for licensure no less than 2 years after the surrender was approved and accepted by the Board.



420-2-1-.11

Licensure for Emergency
Medical Provider Services

Changed the word
STEMI to Cardiac

Licensure for Emergency Medical Provider Services

420-2-1-.11

Changed the word STEMI to Cardiac

(11) Compliance with all statewide system components (i.e., Trauma, Stroke, and **Cardiac**) as written in the *Alabama OEMS Patient Care Protocols*.

420-2-1-.12

Advanced Life Support Personnel Scope of Practice

Changed the word
STEMI to Cardiac.



Advanced Life Support Personnel Scope of Practice

420-2-1-.12

Changed the word STEMI to Cardiac

(3) All advanced EMS licensure levels shall comply with all state-wide system components (i.e., Trauma, Stroke, and **Cardiac**) as written in the *Alabama EMS Patient Care Protocols*.

420-2-1-.17

Ground Provider Services, Equipment, Fluids and Medications



- Added language that ambulance lettering and striping must match.
- Removed letter height and strip requirement.

Ground Provider Services, Equipment, Fluids and Medications

420-2-1-.17

Added language that ambulance lettering and striping must match / Removed letter height and strip requirement

(8) All ambulances shall have the same color schemes, lettering, and striping which shall be approved by the OEMS prior to being placed in service.

(9) All provider service names as designated on the license issued by the OEMS shall be displayed prominently on each side of the ambulance as outlined in the current OEMS approved specifications.

420-2-1-.21

Patient Care Reporting

Added the word “electronic”
to patient care report



Patient Care Reporting

420-2-1-.21

Added the word "electronic" to patient care report

(1) The EMSP providing patient care is responsible for the completion and submission of an **electronic** Patient Care Report(**e-PCR**) to the emergency medical provider service.

420-2-1-.26 Exemptions

Added an exemption for
a specialty care
ambulance.



Exemptions

420-2-1-.26

Added an exemption for a specialty care ambulance.

(f) Specialty care ambulances that are utilized for interfacility transfers only and that are verified and approved by the OEMS prior to operation.

420-2-1-.28

Compliance and Enforcement for
Licensed Provider Services

Added vapes to prohibited items.



Compliance and Enforcement for Licensed Provider Services

420-2-1-.28

Added vapes to prohibited items.

(j) An EMSP shall not use any tobacco products, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, **vapes of any type**, and smokeless tobacco, and shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while operating or riding in an ambulance or while providing patient care.

420-2-1-.29

Standards of Conduct

Added duty to act,
dereliction of duty, and
diversion.



Standards of Conduct

420-2-1-.29

Added duty to act, dereliction of duty, and diversion.

(2) Misconduct is defined as:

(v) Disregarding a duty to act.

(w) Executing a dereliction of duty.

(x) Posing a danger to public health or safety.

(y) Diversion of, or tampering with, a medication or controlled substance with or without a criminal charge for such actions.

420-2-1-.30

Impaired EMSP

- Added language that the crime must be associated with the current incident to prohibit rehabilitation entry.
- Replaced "voluntary suspension" with "consents to suspend."
- Replaced "retain" with "regain."
- Added language that an individual who consents to surrender rather than enter a rehabilitation facility may reapply after 2 years and after completing an evaluation.



Impaired EMSP

420-2-1-.30

Added language that the crime must be associated with the current incident to prohibit rehabilitation entry.

(a) The individual has not been found guilty of any crime related to drug or alcohol abuse **associated with the incident**. Guilty means the individual was found guilty following a trial, or entered a plea of guilty or no contest accompanied by a court's finding of guilt.

Impaired EMSP

420-2-1-.30

Replaced "voluntary suspension" with "consents to suspend."

(d) The individual consents to suspend his or her license during the evaluation process and subsequent treatment, if recommended.

Impaired EMSP

420-2-1-.30

Replaced "retain" with "regain."

(3) An individual who meets the above criteria may **regain** his or her license if they successfully complete the rehabilitation program, and agree to the following conditions:

Impaired EMSP

420-2-1-.30

Added language that an individual who consents to surrender rather than enter a rehabilitation facility may reapply after 2 years and after completing an evaluation.

(8) An individual who is in violation of this rule and consents to surrender his or her license to avoid adverse licensure action may reapply for licensure no less than 2 years after the surrender was approved and accepted by the Board and only after completing an evaluation and subsequent treatment, if recommended, at an approved drug, alcohol, or psychiatric rehabilitation program. The individual must show sobriety during the program, and a letter of advocacy for relicensure must be sent from the facility to the OEMS.

420-2-1-.32

Education Standards and Procedures

- Added language for an educational program to notify the OEMS prior to starting an EMS program.
- Added language requiring a Letter of Review from CoAEMSP prior to starting a Level 1 course.
- Added requirements for an RN to enter a paramedic program.



Education Standards and Procedures

420-2-1-.32

Added language for an educational program to notify the OEMS prior to starting an EMS program.

(i) Any education program not accredited by OEMS must notify the OEMS at least 90 days prior to the beginning of any initial EMSP licensure level program.

Education Standards and Procedures

420-2-1-.32

Added language requiring a Letter of Review from CoAEMSP prior to starting a Level 1 course.

(j) An approved Letter of Review from CoAEMSP must be obtained by the sponsoring institution and must be submitted to the OEMS at least 90 days prior to the beginning of an initial Level 1 course.

Education Standards and Procedures

420-2-1-.32

Added requirements for an RN to enter a paramedic program.

(d) The Registered Nurse (RN) shall:

1. Complete all entry requirements for Level 3 students.
2. Possess an Associate's Degree or higher in nursing from a regionally accredited institution.
3. Possess a license as an unencumbered RN license in Alabama or an RN license accepted through the Nursing Compact.
4. Possess a current NREMT or NRAEMT certification prior to entering the internship portion or exit the program.
5. Successfully complete all Level 3 course work from an accredited institution.

420-2-1-.30

Tactical Paramedic

Added new section with endorsement requirements for a Tactical Paramedic



Tactical Paramedic

420-2-1-.34

Added new section with endorsement requirements for a Tactical Paramedic

- (1) To obtain a Tactical endorsement, a paramedic must:
 - (a) Present a Board approved application and proof of the IBSC Tactical Paramedic certification.
 - (b) Have 3 years licensed at the paramedic level.
- (2) The Tactical endorsement shall be valid so long as the paramedic maintains:
 - (a) Current licensure as a paramedic by the Board.
 - (b) Current certification through the IBSC.

Tactical Paramedic

420-2-1-.34

Added new section with endorsement requirements for a Tactical Paramedic

- (3) A paramedic with a Tactical endorsement shall be authorized to perform the skills and procedures included in the Tactical Paramedic Section of the Alabama EMS Patient Care Protocols in addition to the standard Alabama EMS Patient Care Protocols.
- (4) A licensed paramedic with a Tactical endorsement shall be responsible for providing the OEMS with copies of his or her current IBSC.
- (5) Provider services must keep all training documents on file for auditing purposes and make available to the OEMS upon request.



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