



# McLean County Area EMS System

705 N East Street  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: (309) 827-4348  
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<b>Title of Policy:</b> <i>Abuse of Controlled Substances by System Personnel</i>	<b>Policy Number:</b> DI-101
<b>Effective Date:</b> 10/2004	<b>Review Date:</b> 10/05/2016
<b>Policy Area:</b> Discipline	<b>Approvals:</b> EMSSC, EMS MD

## Background to Policy:

To insure competent patient care and safety by identifying pre-hospital providers with substance abuse problems and assisting the provider in seeking treatment and/or removal of the provider from the patient care environment.

## Policy Statement:

The McLean County Area EMS System considers substance abuse (drug dependency and/or alcoholism) to be a health problem, and it will assist an EMS System member who becomes dependent on alcohol and/or drugs. The McLean County Area EMS System and ultimately Systems' patients will suffer the adverse effects of having a pre-hospital care provider whose performance is below acceptable standards. Any respective EMS System member whose substance abuse problems jeopardize the delivery, performance or activities in the care of an EMS System patient requiring medical care, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the EMS Medical Director.

## Policy:

- a. Any pre-hospital care provider as a member of the McLean County Area EMS System who voluntarily requests assistance with a personal substance abuse problem shall be referred directly to the EMS Medical Director for an evaluation and referral for treatment when necessary.
- b. Any pre-hospital care provider as a member of the McLean County Area EMS System who is suspect to have a personal substance abuse problem and who is suspect of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, while in the provision of emergency care shall be referred to the EMS Medical Director for an evaluation and referral for treatment when necessary.
- c. With the exception of EMS Students, the McLean County Area EMS System **DOES NOT** require EMS System members to submit to blood and/or urine testing for alcohol and/or drug use.
- d. If the EMS Medical Director has determined that the individual, within reasonable medical certainty, is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while in provision of emergency care, and whose performance is below acceptable standards, shall be subject to disciplinary action.
  - i. The first occurrence shall result in a referral of the pre-hospital care provider to the appropriate assistance program and subject to disciplinary action. **The pre-hospital care provider will not be responsible for any associated costs.**
  - ii. The second occurrence, within one year, shall result in disciplinary action as determined by the EMS Medical Director and **may result in suspension of the EMT license and/or System participation.**



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- iii. If a System member under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while engaged in provision of emergency care does not cooperate or refuses physician evaluation and/or treatment, ***the EMSMD shall subject that member to potential suspension of their EMT license and System participation.***
- e. The use, sale purchase, transfer, theft or possession of an illegal drug is a violation of the law. “Illegal drug” means any drug which is; (a) not legally obtainable or, (b) legally obtainable but was not legally obtained. The term “illegal drug” includes prescription drugs not legally obtained and prescription drugs legally obtained but not being used for prescribed purposes. Anyone in violation of illegal drug activities shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

## Resources:

1. [Substance Abuse- Journal of Emergency Medical Services](#)
2. [Addiction in EMS: The real tragedy behind the headlines-EMS1](#)
3. [Code Green Campaign Resources](#)