

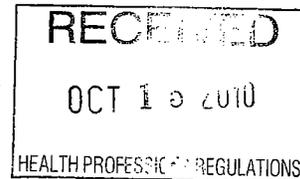
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND :  
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS :  
 :  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH :  
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL :  
SERVICES :

EMS Cases #08-029

vs.

Bryant University EMS, Ambulance Service License #97

**CONSENT ORDER**



This matter is before the Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services (hereinafter “Department”), upon allegations that EMT personnel employed by Bryant University Public Safety/EMS (hereinafter “Respondent”) did engage in conduct that constituted grounds for disciplinary action against their EMT licenses and that the Respondent failed to adequately investigate and take corrective action regarding significant treatment errors that occurred while providing emergency medical care to a patient on September 5, 2008.

After careful consideration by the Department, the following constitutes the Findings of Fact with respect to the actions of the Respondent relative to this incident:

1. That the Respondent is an Ambulance Service licensed to provide emergency medical services in the State of Rhode Island.
2. That the Respondent’s personnel did fail to administer care in accordance with the applicable EMS standards of practice and in violation of the *Altered Mental Status* protocol of the *Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders*. These errors include:

- a. Administration of a medication not authorized within the EMT-B scope of practice (insulin).
  - b. Administration of an intramuscular medication for hypoglycemia without authorization from Medical Control.
  - c. Lack of understanding of diabetic hypoglycemia and the proper treatment thereof.
  - d. Administration of a patient's own medication to treat a diabetic emergency.
3. That the Respondent is not only responsible for the actions of its employees but was also obligated, by virtue of its Ambulance Service license, to adequately investigate this matter and take necessary corrective measures.
  4. That the Respondent did initially fail to adequately investigate this matter or take appropriate corrective measures, and that the Respondent did not discipline or otherwise sanction any of its personnel involved in this incident.
  5. That the Respondent did, after receiving notice of the Department's investigation hereto, make efforts to provide training and change procedures with the intent of reducing the chance of further errors.
  6. That the Respondent's conduct as described herein is inconsistent with its responsibilities as defined in the *Rules & Regulations Related to Emergency Medical Services [R23-4.1-EMS]* and with minimum accepted and prevailing standards of EMS service management.

With respect to these matters, the parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent's mailing address is 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917.

2. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Department and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Department.
3. Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Department and is subject to final ratification by the Department. This Consent Order and the contents thereof are not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Department.
4. Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
  - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Department;
  - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
  - c. The right to cross-examine witnesses;
  - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Department;
  - e. The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
  - f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
  - g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Department for consideration and review;
  - h. Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Department to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to adequately review this Consent Order;
  - i. Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order to the Department.
5. This Consent Order shall become a part of the public record of this proceeding once accepted by all parties.

6. Acceptance by the Respondent and approval by the Department of this Consent Order constitutes an admission of the facts contained herein.
7. Failure to comply with the Consent Order, once signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action against their Ambulance Service License.
8. That the Respondent shall serve at least a twelve (12) month period of Probation for its Ambulance Service license, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Order.
  - a. Said Probationary period shall commence upon execution of the Consent Order and will abate for the duration of any period in which Respondent ceases to provide emergency medical services in Rhode Island.
  - b. That during the period of Probation should Respondent fail to comply with the provisions of Chapter 23-4.1 and/or the Rules and Regulations Relating to Emergency Medical Services, or any of the terms of this Consent Order, the Department shall initiate appropriate action with respect to Respondent's licensure status.
  - c. That during the period of Probation, Respondent shall submit to the Department reports every six (6) months relating to the overall performance of their service, including a summary of any reportable incidents as defined in the *Rules & Regulations Related to Emergency Medical Services [R23-4.1-EMS]*.
9. That prior to applying for relief from Probation, the Respondent shall submit to the Department, or cause to be submitted to the Department, documentation that the practical skills of every EMT employed by the Respondent have been evaluated by,

and found acceptable to, the Respondent's Medical Director. Any expense related to the completion of this requirement shall be borne by the Respondent.

10. That this Consent Order shall eliminate the necessity for a hearing on the matters forming the basis for this Consent Order.

11. That should Respondent comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of Emergency Medical Services during the twelve (12) month period of Probation and comply with the requirements of this Consent Order, they may apply to the Department for relief from the probation.

Signed this 13 day of October 2010.

  
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Chief George S. Coronado  
Bryant University Department of Public Safety

Ratified as an order of the Department on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2010.

  
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Charles Alexandre, Chief  
Health Professionals Regulation  
Health Services Regulation