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August 14, 2020

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Chapter 511-9-2 “Emergency Medical Services”

Revisions to Rule 511-9-2-.02
“Definitions”

Revisions to Rule 511-9-2-.16
“Standards for Training”

Revisions to 511-9-2-.17
“Standards for Emergency Medical Service Instructors”

Revisions to 511-9-2-.18
“Standards of Conduct for Licensees”

The Department of Public Health (“DPH”) proposes the attached revisions to Chapter 511-9-2 of its regulations. The revisions relate to EMS initial/continuing education, EMS instructor licensing, and the re-establishment of a State Trauma Advisory Council and are proposed pursuant to DPH’s authority under O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6, 31-11-5, 31-11-58, 33-11-58.1, 31-11-60.1, and 31-11-102 (9).

The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to update the EMS education system in Georgia through the revision of rules that address EMS initial education programs, EMS continuing education, as well as EMS Instructor and EMS Instructor/Coordinator licensure. Additionally, the purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to define the Regional Trauma Advisory Councils and State Trauma Advisory Council.

The proposed revisions to Rule 511-9-2-.02 refine existing definitions and add terms that align with existing terminology used in practice, and define terms used in the rules related to the EMS Instructor and EMS Instructor/Coordinator process, as well as defining the State Trauma Advisory Council (“STAC”) and the Regional Trauma Advisory Councils (“RTACs”). The definition and re-establishment of the STAC and the definition of the RTACs is being done following recommendations contained in the 2009 Trauma System Consultation performed by the American College of Surgeons, Committee on Trauma, where it was recommended that the state re-establish the State Trauma Advisory Council and establish the Regional Trauma Advisory Councils (RTACs). While RTACs have been created in each EMS Region since the Trauma System Consultation was performed, these rules define the role and purpose as a committee of the Regional EMS Advisory Councils in their respective EMS Regions.

The proposed revisions to Rule 511-9-2-.16 define and clarify the requirements for EMS Initial Education Programs and define and clarify the requirements for EMS Continuing Education approval in this state. The proposed revisions to Rule 511-9-2-.17 define and clarify the licensing of EMS Instructors and EMS Instructor/Coordinators. Previously, there existed EMS Instructor license Level I, Level II, and Level III, however the proposed revisions to these rules establish more clearly defined EMS Instructor and EMS Instructor/Coordinator license levels and establish initial and renewal requirements for those levels. The

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revisions to Rules 511-9-2-.16 and 511-9-2-.17 are being proposed to enhance the EMS initial education system in this state and are based on input and endorsement from the statewide EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC).

The proposed revisions to Rule 511-9-2-.18 define and clarify the standards of conduct for EMS Instructors, EMS Instructor/Coordinators and medics providing EMS initial and/or continuing education.


The proposed amendments have been posted to the Department's website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/regulationsrule-making>. Interested persons may submit comments on these proposed revisions in writing addressed to:

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Written comments must be submitted on or before Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency, there will not be a physical in-person meeting, however, oral comments may be presented via phone or via WebEx at a public meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2020. To join the public meeting:

- To join by computer:
 - Meeting link: <https://gdph.webex.com/gdph/j.php?MTID=mf44498e60308d77181328cce76dae988>
 - Meeting number: 129 435 3654
 - Password: JtmJY4uc*86 (58659482 from phones)
- To join by phone:
 - Phone Number: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
 - Access code: 129 435 3654

The Commissioner of Public Health will consider the proposed rules for adoption on or about Wednesday, September 16, 2020, to become effective on or about Monday, October 19, 2020.



Megan Andrews
Director of Government Relations
Georgia Department of Public Health

**RULES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 511-9-2
Emergency Medical Services**

- 511-9-2-.02** **Definitions.**
511-9-2-.16 **Standards for ~~Training~~Emergency Medical Services Education.**
511-9-2-.17 **Standards for Emergency Medical Service Instructors and**
 Instructor/Coordinators.
511-9-2-.18 **Standards of Conduct for Licensees.**

Rule 511-9-2-.02 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of these standards:

- (a) “Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certification” means successful completion of a course recognized by the Department approved course utilizing which utilizes nationally recognized advanced cardiac care standards.
- (b) “Advanced Emergency Medical Technician” or “AEMT” means a person who has been licensed by the Department after having successfully attained certification by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT).
- (c) “Advanced Life Support (ALS)” means the assessment, and if necessary, treatment or transportation by ambulance, utilizing medically necessary supplies and equipment provided by at least one individual licensed above the level of ~~E~~emergency ~~M~~medical ~~T~~technician.
- (d) “Advanced Tactical ~~Practitioner~~ Paramedic (ATP)” means a certification issued by the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Medic Certification Program.
- (e) “Air Ambulance” means a rotary-wing aircraft registered by the Department that is specially constructed and equipped and is intended to be used for air medical emergency transportation of patients.
- (fe) “Air Ambulance Service” means an agency or company operating under a valid license from the Department providing that uses air ambulances to provide ambulance service with rotor wing aircraft that is operated under a valid license from the Department.
- (f) ~~“Ambulance Air” means a rotary wing aircraft registered by the Department that is specially constructed and equipped and is intended to be used for air medical emergency transportation of patients.~~

- ~~(g)~~ “~~Ambulance Ground~~” means a motor vehicle registered by the Department that is specially constructed and equipped and is intended to be used for emergency transportation of patients.
- (gh) “Ambulance Service” means the provision of emergency care and transportation for a wounded, injured, sick, invalid, or incapacitated human being to or from a place where medical care is furnished; or an entity licensed to provide such services.
- ~~(i)~~ “~~Ambulance Service Medical Director~~” or “~~EMS Agency Medical Director~~” means a physician licensed to practice in this state, who provides medical direction to an EMS agency licensed by the Department.
- (hj) “Approved” means acceptable to the Department based on its determination as to conformance with existing standards.
- ~~(k)~~ “~~Arrest~~” means the taking or detaining in custody of a person by a law enforcement official upon probable cause of a crime.
- (il) “Authorized Agent” means a person with the legal authority to sign on behalf of the legal owner of a business entity.
- (jm) “Base of Operations” means the primary location at which administration of the EMS Agency or EMS Initial Education Program service occurs and where records are maintained. All service providers licensed EMS Agencies and designated EMS Initial Education Programs must designate one Base of Operations location within the State of Georgia.
- ~~(kn)~~ “Basic Life Support (BLS)” means treatment or transportation by ground ambulance vehicle or treatment with medically necessary supplies and services involving non-invasive life support measures.
- (le) “Board” means the Board of Public Health.
- ~~(mp)~~ “Cardiac Technician” means a person who has been licensed by the Department after having successfully completed an approved cardiac technician certification exam, or licensed by the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners, now known as the Georgia Composite Medical Board, prior to January 1, 2002. This is a historical reference only, as no new cardiac technician licenses will be issued.
- ~~(nq)~~ “Charge” means a formal claim of criminal wrongdoing brought by a law enforcement official or prosecutor against an individual, whether by arrest warrant, information, accusation, or indictment.
- ~~(or)~~ “Clinical Preceptor” means a licensed Emergency ~~M~~edical Technician, Advanced Emergency ~~M~~edical Technician, Emergency ~~M~~edical Technician-Intermediate, Cardiac Technician, Paramedic, IV team member, licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, physician's assistant, allied health professional or physician who meets the requirements for preceptors as established by the Department.

- (ps) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health.
- (qt) “Communication Protocols” means guidelines that specify which emergency interventions require direct voice order from medical control in the rendering of prehospital emergency medical care to a patient and may include other guidelines relative to communication between medics and medical control.
- (ru) “CPR Certification” means successful completion of a ~~Department approved~~ healthcare provider course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation which is recognized by the Department.
- (sv) “Department” means the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma.
- (tw) “Designated 911 Zone Provider” means an EMS agency providing ground ambulance service and operating under a valid ambulance license issued by the Department, which is granted a specific geographical territory or ~~E~~mergency ~~R~~esponse ~~Z~~one to provide emergency transport services following a public call in compliance with the ~~R~~egional ~~A~~mbulance ~~Z~~oning ~~P~~lan for the EMS Region.
- (ux) “Emergency” means a request for a non-planned response or an urgent need for the protection of life, health, or safety, as perceived by a prudent layperson.
- (v) “Emergency Medical Responder” or “EMR” means a person who has successfully completed an Emergency Medical Responder course approved by the Department.
- (wy) “Emergency Medical Services” or “Emergency Medical Services System” or “EMS” or “EMS System” means the integrated system of medical response established and designed to respond, assess, treat, and facilitate the disposition of victims of acute injury or illness and those in need of medically safe transportation. EMS also includes medical response provided in hazardous environments, rescue situations, disasters and mass casualties, mass gathering events, as well as interfacility transfer of patients and participation in community health activities.
- (xz) “Emergency Medical Services Agency” or “EMS Agency” means an air ambulance agency, ground ambulance agency, medical first responder agency, or neonatal transport agency licensed by the Department.
- (yaa) “Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council” or “EMSAC” means an advisory council that provides advice to the Department in matters essential to its operations with respect to emergency medical services.
- ~~(bb) “Emergency Medical Service Instructor – Level I” means an individual qualified and licensed to teach continuing education, state approved Emergency Medical Responder courses and community education programs.~~
- ~~(cc) “Emergency Medical Service Instructor – Level II” means an individual qualified and licensed to teach and coordinate emergency medical technician, and advanced emergency medical technician courses.~~

- ~~(dd)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Service Instructor – Level III~~” means an individual qualified and licensed to teach and coordinate paramedic courses, in addition to Level II courses.
- ~~(z)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Services Medical Director~~” or “~~EMS Medical Director~~” or “~~Medical Director~~” means a physician licensed to practice in this state who provides medical direction to an EMS agency licensed by the Department or an EMS Initial Education Program designated by the Department.
- ~~(aaee)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors Advisory Council~~” or “~~EMSMDAC~~” means an advisory council that provides advice to the Department on issues essential to medical direction of the EMS system.
- ~~(bbff)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Services Personnel~~” or “~~EMS Personnel~~” means any ~~E~~emergency ~~M~~medical ~~T~~technician, ~~E~~emergency ~~M~~medical ~~T~~technician-~~I~~intermediate, ~~A~~advanced ~~E~~emergency ~~M~~medical ~~T~~technician, ~~C~~cardiac ~~T~~technician, or ~~P~~paramedic licensed by the Department or any ~~E~~emergency ~~M~~medical ~~R~~responder.
- ~~(ccgg)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Service Region~~” or “~~EMS Region~~” means a geographic area identified by the Department for the purpose of administratively sub-dividing the ~~E~~emergency ~~M~~medical ~~S~~services system in this state. Each EMS Region shall be comprised of counties from one or more health districts established by the Department.
- ~~(hh)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Responder~~” (EMR) means a person who has successfully completed an emergency medical responder course approved by the Department.
- ~~(ddii)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Technician~~” or “~~EMT~~” means a person who has been licensed by the Department after being certified by National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
- ~~(eejj)~~ “~~Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate~~” or “~~EMT-I~~” means a person who has been licensed by the Department after being certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as an Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate (EMT-I) prior to March 31, 2013, or licensed by the former Georgia Department of Human Resources as an EMT prior to January 1, 2002.
- ~~(ffkk)~~ “~~Emergency Response Zone~~” or “~~ERZ~~” means a geographical territory identified by the Department within each EMS Region for the purposes of providing emergency medical transport services by designated ambulance services following a public call.
- ~~(gg)~~ “~~EMS Initial Education Program~~” means an instructional program of Department-approved EMS initial education courses at the EMR, EMT, AEMT, and/or Paramedic levels.
- ~~(hh)~~ “~~EMS Initial Education Program Sponsor~~” or “~~Sponsor~~” means a Georgia licensed EMS Agency or Fire Department; accredited hospital, clinic, or medical center; accredited educational institution, or other Department approved entity that has accepted responsibility for the operation of an EMS Initial Education Program.

- (ii) “EMS Instructor” means an individual who is qualified to teach EMS continuing education courses, community education programs, and who is licensed to coordinate or serve as the lead instructor of National Continued Competency Requirement (NCCR) courses as specified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), and who is further licensed to coordinate or serve as the lead instructor of an EMR initial education course approved by the Department.
- (jj) “EMS Instructor/Coordinator (AEMT)” or “EMS I/C (A)” means an individual who meets all requirements for licensure as an EMS Instructor and who is further qualified and licensed to coordinate or serve as the lead instructor of an initial EMR, EMT, or AEMT course approved by the Department.
- (kk) “EMS Instructor/Coordinator (EMT)” or “EMS I/C (E)” means an individual who meets all requirements for licensure as an EMS Instructor and who is further qualified and licensed to coordinate or serve as the lead instructor of an initial EMR or EMT course approved by the Department.
- (ll) “EMS Instructor/Coordinator (Paramedic)” or “EMS I/C (P)” means an individual who meets all requirements for licensure as an EMS Instructor and who is further qualified and licensed to coordinate or serve as the lead instructor of an initial EMR, EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic course approved by the Department.
- (mm) “EMS Instructor with Paramedic Endorsement” or “EMS Instructor (Paramedic)” means an individual who was previously licensed by the Department as a Level III EMS Instructor; who does not hold an associate degree or higher, but who otherwise meets all requirements for licensure as an EMS Instructor/Coordinator (Paramedic); and who is qualified and licensed to coordinate or serve as the lead instructor of an initial EMR, EMT, or AEMT course approved by the Department and to serve as an instructor in an initial Paramedic course approved by the Department. This is a historical reference only, as no new EMS Instructor with Paramedic Endorsement licenses will be issued.
- (nn) “Good Standing” as used in this rule refers to a license that is unrestricted, not on probation or suspension, is not currently under investigation, and has had no adverse action taken against it that is still in effect.
- (~~nnoo~~) “Ground Ambulance” means a motor vehicle registered by the Department that is specially constructed and equipped and is intended to be used for emergency transportation of patients.
- (~~ppH~~) “Ground Ambulance Service” means an agency or company operating under a valid license from the Department that uses ground ambulances to provide providing ambulance service with ground-based vehicles operating under a valid license from the Department.
- (~~mm~~) “Guidelines” (See “Medical Protocol”).

- (qqn) ~~“Health District” means the~~ a geographical district designated by the Department of Public Health pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-3-15.
- (oo) ~~“Inactive Status” in the context of a license or designation issued by the Department means said license, or designation is no longer valid due to failure to meet current required standards.~~
- (pp) ~~“Indictment” means a formal written charge of criminal wrongdoing framed by a prosecuting authority and found by a grand jury.~~
- (rrq) ~~“Invalid Car” means a non-emergency trans-port vehicle used only to transport persons who are convalescent or otherwise non-ambulatory, and do not require medical care during transport.~~
- (rrss) ~~“License (Agency)” when issued to a person means a license issued to a medical first responder service or to a ground, air or neonatal ambulance service which signifies that the agency’s facilities, vehicles, personnel, and operations comply with O.C.G.A. Chapter 31, Chapter 11, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, and the policies of the Department.~~
- (tt) “License (Medic or Instructor)” means a license issued to a person which signifies that the person has met the requirements for the respective level of individual licensure specified in Title 31, Chapter 11 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and the policies of the Department.
- (uuss) ~~“License Officer” means the Commissioner of Public Health or his/her designee.~~
- (vvt) ~~“License Renewal Cycle” means a period of time established by the Department for renewal of licenses. The term recertification as it applies to individuals is synonymous with license renewal.~~
- (uu) ~~“Licensed Nurse” means an individual who is currently licensed or registered in the State of Georgia as a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, nurse practitioner or licensed practical nurse.~~
- (www) ~~“Medic” means an individual who is currently licensed by the Department as any Emergency Mmedical Technician, Emergency Mmedical Technician - Intermediate, Advanced Emergency Mmedical Technician, Ceardiac Technician, or Pparamedic licensed by the Department.~~
- (ww) ~~“Medical Advisor” (See “Ambulance Service Medical Director”).~~
- (xx) ~~“Medical Control” means the clinical guidance from a physician to emergency medical services EMS Ppersonnel regarding the prehospital management of a patient.~~
- (yy) ~~“Medical Control Physician” means the physician providing clinical guidance to emergency medical services personnel regarding the prehospital management of a patient.~~

- (yyzz) “Medical Direction” means the administrative process of providing medical guidance or supervision including but not limited to system design, education, critique, and quality improvement by a physician to ~~emergency medical services~~ EMS ~~p~~Personnel.
- (zzaaa) “Medical First Responder Service” means an agency or company duly licensed by the Department that provides on-site care until the arrival of the Department’s ~~D~~esignated ~~ambulance~~ 911 Zone Provider.
- (aaabbb) “Medical First Responder Vehicle” means a motor vehicle registered by the Department for the purpose of providing response to emergencies.
- (bbbeee) “Medical Protocol” means ~~a~~prehospital treatment guidelines, approved by the local EMS ~~M~~edical ~~D~~irector, used to manage an emergency medical condition in the field by outlining the permissible and appropriate medical treatment that may be rendered by ~~emergency medical services~~ EMS ~~p~~Personnel to a patient experiencing a medical emergency or injury.
- (cccdde) “Neonatal Transport Personnel” means licensed or certified health care professionals specially trained in the care of neonates.
- (ddeeee) “Neonatal Transport ~~Provider~~ Service” means an agency or company operating under a valid license from the Department providing that provides facility-to-facility transport for neonates, infants, children or adolescents that is operated under a valid neonatal transport license from the Department.
- (eeefff) “Neonatal Transport Vehicle” or “Neonatal Ambulance” means a motor vehicle registered by the Department that is equipped for the purpose of transporting neonates to a place where medical care is furnished.
- (fffegg) “Neonate” means an infant 0 - 184 days of age, as defined by the Georgia Regional Perinatal Care Program.
- (ggg) “Nurse” means an individual who is currently licensed in the State of Georgia as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse.
- (hhh) “Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma” ~~(the Department)~~ means the regulatory subdivision of the Georgia Department of Public Health that is, directly responsible for administration of the statewide ~~emergency medical services~~ EMS system.
- (iii) “Paramedic” means a person who has been licensed by the Department after having been certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as a ~~P~~paramedic, certified by the ~~or~~ United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as an Advanced Tactical ~~Practitioner~~ Paramedic (ATP), or licensed as a Paramedic by the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners, now known as the Georgia Composite Medical Board, prior to January 1, 2002.
- (jjj) “Patient Care Report” or “Prehospital Care Report” or (“PCR)” means ~~the documentation that contains the required written or electronic data set required by that is submitted to the~~

~~Department or to an acute care facility by an EMS Agency, either written or electronic that records the information regarding each request for an EMS response. The required data set is shall include all data elements specified by the Departments, but is not limited to: Agency responding, vehicle identity, medics on the call, date of the call, times pertinent to the call, care rendered, treatment and transport information, pertinent patient information such as vital signs, and symptoms. Patient Care Report is synonymous with Prehospital Care Report.~~

- (kkk) ~~“Provisional License” (Agency) when issued to an ambulance service~~ means a license issued to an ~~ambulance service~~ EMS Agency on a conditional basis to allow a newly established ~~ambulance service~~ EMS Agency to demonstrate that its facilities and operations comply with state statutes and these rules and regulations.
- (III) “Provisional License (Medic)” is defined as a license at the EMT, AEMT or Paramedic level that is issued by the Department to a person who is provisionally certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) at the respective level of application. Provisional licenses are non-renewable except in times of a prolonged public health emergency or as deemed necessary by the Department.
- (mmmIII) ~~“Public Call” as used in these regulations~~ means a request for an ambulance service from a member of the public to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) when dialing “9-1-1” or the PSAP’s ten-digit phone number, or a request for an ambulance by any law enforcement agency, fire department, rescue squad, or any other public safety agency.
- (nnnnmmmm) ~~“Reasonable Distance” means the allowable distance for patient transport~~ established by the local ~~EMS M~~ medical Director based on the ambulance service's geographical area of responsibility, the ambulance service's ability to maintain emergency capabilities, and hospital resources.
- (nnn) ~~“Recertification Cycle” (See “License Renewal Cycle”).~~
- (ooo) “Regional Ambulance Zoning Plan” means the Department approved method of distributing emergency calls among designated ground ambulance services in designated geographical territories or Emergency Response zZones within each EMS Region in the State.
- (ppp) “Regional Emergency Medical Services Medical Director” or “Regional EMS Medical Director” means a person, having approval of the Regional EMS Council and Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma, who is a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, familiar with the design and operation of prehospital emergency care, experienced in the prehospital emergency care of acutely ill or injured patients, and experienced in the administrative processes affecting regional and state prehospital Eemergency Mmedical Sservices systems.

- (qqq) “Regional Trauma Advisory Council” or “RTAC” means a trauma-specific multidisciplinary, multi-agency advisory council that is a committee of the Regional EMS Advisory Council for a given EMS Region.
- (rrqqq) “Reserve Ambulance” means a registered ambulance that temporarily does not meet the standards for ambulance equipment and supplies in these rules and policies of the Department.
- (sssrr) “Specialty Care Center” means a licensed hospital dedicated to a specific sub-specialty care including, but not limited to, trauma, stroke, pediatric, burn and cardiac care.
- (ttss) “Specialty Care Transport” means transportation in a registered ground, air or neonatal ambulance or neonatal unit between health care facilities during which certain special skills above and beyond those taught in state approved initial paramedic education are utilized. Provided, however, that this definition is not intended to authorize a medic to operate beyond his or her scope of practice.
- (uuu) “State Trauma Advisory Council” or “STAC” means a trauma-specific statewide multidisciplinary, multi-agency advisory council, established and appointed by the Department that provides advice to the Department in matters essential to the Department’s role as the lead agency for trauma system development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-3, 31-2A-6, 31-11-2, 31-11-5.

511-9-2-16 Standards for Training Emergency Medical Services Education.

(1) Emergency Medical Service Course Standards

- (a) ~~All emergency medical service courses must be approved by the department prior to the course starting date.~~
- (b) ~~In order for any course to be approved, the course coordinator must be a currently licensed instructor in good standing at the applicable level.~~
- (c) ~~A complete course application must be submitted by the sponsoring agency to the department at least twenty business days in advance of the actual starting date of the proposed course on forms prescribed by the department.~~
- (d) ~~The sponsoring agency of the course must establish contracts with the appropriate agencies to ensure that clinical requirements for the course will be met.~~
- (e) ~~The department shall establish standards for all emergency medical service courses.~~
- (f) ~~All approved courses are subject to monitoring by the department including unannounced on-site evaluations and other methods as deemed appropriate by the department.~~

~~(2) Training for Administration of Opioid Antagonists. In order to be authorized to administer opioid antagonists to a person experiencing an opioid related overdose, a first responder shall first undergo a course of training approved by the department and made available on the department's website. For purposes of this subparagraph, "first responder" shall mean any person or agency who provides on-site care until the arrival of a duly licensed ambulance service, including but not limited to persons who routinely respond to calls for assistance through an affiliation with law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and rescue agencies.~~

(1) EMS Initial Education.

(a) No EMS Agency, fire department, hospital, clinic, medical center, educational institution, or other entity shall hold itself out as a designated or approved EMS Initial Education Program at the EMR, EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic level without holding current designation by the Department as an EMS Initial Education Program for the respective level(s) of EMS initial education.

(b) Designation of EMS Initial Education Programs.

1. Any EMS Agency, fire department, hospital, clinic, medical center, educational institution, or other entity seeking designation as an EMS Initial Education Program at the EMR, EMT, AEMT, and/or Paramedic levels must submit an application to the Department in a manner and on forms as determined by the Department.
2. An application for designation as an EMS Initial Education Program must include a statement from an authorized agent of the Program's Sponsor attesting that the Sponsor accepts responsibility for the operation of the Program.
3. The Department's review of applications for designation and re-designation as an EMS Initial Education Program may include an on-site inspection of the program.
4. All EMS Initial Education Programs, including individual courses, are subject to periodic monitoring and announced or unannounced site visits by the Department.
5. All EMS Initial Education Programs must maintain satisfactory records for student admission, advisement, counseling, and evaluation. Grades and credits for courses must be recorded on the student transcript and permanently maintained by the Sponsor in a safe and accessible location. All EMS Initial Education Program records are subject to review by the Department at any time.

(c) EMS Initial Education Program Designation Criteria. Applicants for designation as an EMS Initial Education Program shall meet Department-specified standards that address, at a minimum, the following criteria:

1. Program sponsorship;
 2. Program direction and administration;
 3. Medical direction;
 4. Instructional personnel;
 5. Financial resources;
 6. Physical resources, including classroom and laboratory facilities, equipment and supplies, and learning resources;
 7. Admission requirements for all levels of EMS initial education courses offered by the Program;
 8. Clinical and field internship resources;
 9. Academic and administrative policies, procedures, and records retention requirements;
 10. Program outcomes and evaluation;
 11. Curriculum; and
 12. Delivery of instruction by distance learning technology.
- (d) Data Reporting Requirements and Course Notifications for EMS Initial Education Programs. Each designated EMS Initial Education Program shall:
1. Notify the Department of each EMS initial education course that it intends to offer, in a time frame and on forms specified by the Department.
 2. Report specified data elements to the Department regarding each EMS initial education course offered, in a time frame, format, and frequency specified by the Department. All such data reported to the Department shall be accurate and factual.
 3. Notify the Department of any substantive changes to the EMS Initial Education Program, as specified by the Department, in a time frame and on forms specified by the Department.
 4. Provide the Department with full access to all data from its student clinical tracking system and its learning management system.
 5. Notify the Department within twenty-four hours of receipt of a report or other information suggesting that a program instructor, preceptor, student, or field clinical/internship site has:
 - (i) Provided services while under the influence of drugs or alcohol;

- (ii) Been arrested or indicted for, charged with, or convicted of any felony, crime of violence, or crime of moral turpitude; or
 - (iii) Violated the laws or rules governing EMS in Georgia or the Department's policies related to EMS Initial Education Programs.
 - (e) The Department may suspend, revoke, or place on probation a designation as an EMS Initial Education Program, after providing written notice to the Program's Sponsor, if the Department determines that the Program is not in compliance with the requirements or criteria of these rules or applicable statutes or policies. The Department shall provide an administrative hearing on the action to suspend or revoke the Program's designation if the Sponsor makes a written request for a hearing. Such written request must be delivered to and received by the Department no later than twenty days after the Sponsor receives notice of the action. If a timely request for a hearing is not received, the action will become effective twenty days after the Sponsor's receipt of the notice. In lieu of suspending or revoking a Program's EMS Initial Education Program designation, the Department may re-designate the Program at another level of EMS Initial Education Program if it is determined that the Program does not meet the criteria for its current level(s) of designation.

(2) EMS Continuing Education.

- (a) No EMS Agency, fire department, hospital, clinic, medical center, educational institution, other entity or person shall hold itself/themselves out as offering or teaching an approved EMS continuing education course unless the course has been approved by the Department or accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE).
- (b) Approval of EMS Continuing Education Courses.
 - 1. All requests for Department approval of EMS continuing education courses must be submitted to the Department in a time frame and on forms specified by the Department.
 - 2. EMS continuing education courses shall consist of educational activities designed to promote and enrich knowledge, improve skills, and develop attitudes for the enhancement of professional practice, thus improving the quality of Emergency Medical Services provided to the public.
 - 3. All EMS continuing education courses are subject to periodic monitoring and announced or unannounced site visits by the Department. EMS continuing education courses that are delivered through distance education are subject to review and audit by the Department at any time.
 - 4. All EMS continuing education courses must comply with course standards specified by the Department.

(c) Data reporting requirements

1. Department-approved EMS continuing education courses shall be assigned an approval number by the Department.
2. All providers of approved EMS continuing education courses shall issue a certificate or letter of completion to each student who completes the course. The certificate or letter must include information specified by the Department regarding the completion of the course.
3. If the provider of an approved EMS continuing education course is a Georgia licensed EMS Agency or designated EMS Initial Education Program, the provider shall submit a roster of the students who completed the course to the Department in a time frame and on forms specified by the Department.

(d) The Department's approval of an EMS continuing education course is contingent upon the course being taught according to the approved curriculum and in line with current standards and may be rescinded at any time. No course credit shall be given to attendees of a course for which the Department has rescinded its approval or to persons who have not attended and completed the continuing education course.

(e) Providers of Department or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education shall not issue a certificate of credit/completion for EMS continuing education hours to any person without the person meeting the EMS continuing education completion requirements as specified by the Department for the respective EMS continuing education course.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6, 31-11-5, 31-11-51 through 31-11-61.

**511-9-2-.17 Standards for Emergency Medical Service Instructors and
Instructor/Coordinators.**

~~-(1) Eligibility for Instructor Licensing. All applicants for instructor licensure must meet the following requirements:~~

~~(a) Emergency Medical Services Instructor—Level I.~~

~~1. Written recommendation from the local medical director.~~

~~2. Current Georgia licensure in good standing as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician-intermediate, advanced emergency medical technician, cardiac technician, paramedic, registered nurse, physician's assistant, or physician.~~

~~(b) Emergency Medical Services Instructor—Level II.~~

1. ~~Current Georgia licensure in good standing as an advanced emergency medical technician, cardiac technician, paramedic, registered nurse, physician's assistant, or physician;~~
2. ~~Successful completion of a department approved course with curriculum specific to Georgia's emergency medical service system; and~~
3. ~~Demonstrate proficiency by the successful completion of practical and written examinations approved by the department.~~

(c) ~~Emergency Medical Service Instructor – Level III.~~

1. ~~Current Georgia licensure in good standing as a paramedic, registered nurse, physician's assistant, or physician;~~
2. ~~A minimum of an associate degree or ninety quarter hours of college credit (or semester equivalent) from a regionally or nationally accredited institution;~~
3. ~~Successful completion of a department approved course with curriculum specific to Georgia's emergency medical service system; and~~
4. ~~Demonstrate proficiency by the successful completion of practical and written examinations approved by the department.~~

(12) Licensure of EMS Instructors and EMS Instructor/Coordinators.

- (a) No individual shall hold himself or herself out as an EMS Instructor unless the individual holds an active EMS Instructor license issued by the Department.
- (b) No individual shall hold himself or herself out as an EMS Instructor/Coordinator at any level unless the individual holds an active EMS Instructor/Coordinator license issued by the Department.
- (c) An applicationCandidates for licensure as an EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator must submit an application shall be submitted on the form specified by the Department and shall include adequate demographic information and documentation that the applicant meets all licensure requirements set forth in this ruleprovide other documentation as prescribed by the department, to include at a minimum the name, address, date of birth, and social security number of the applicant.
- (b) ~~No individual shall hold oneself out as an emergency medical service instructor at any level unless licensed by the department.~~
- (ed) Initial licensureOnce issued, a license shall be valid for a period of two years or until the biennial renewal date established time specified by the Department.
- (e) The Department may deny an application for licensure as an EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator, or revoke or otherwise sanction a license, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, upon any of the grounds set forth in Rule 511-9-2-.18.

(2) Eligibility for Licensure as an EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator.

(a) EMS Instructor. All applicants for initial licensure as an EMS Instructor must meet the following requirements:

1. Current CPR Certification that is maintained throughout the Instructor license period.
2. Successful completion of a Department-recognized instructional techniques course, Department-recognized EMS instructional preparation curriculum, or Department-recognized equivalent not more than three (3) years prior to the application.
3. Current Georgia healthcare license that is maintained throughout the instructor license period in a field specified by the Department, together with documentation of a minimum length of continuous licensure in Georgia or another state or territory at an approved healthcare license level.

(b) EMS Instructor/Coordinator. All applicants for initial licensure as an EMS Instructor/Coordinator must meet the following requirements:

1. Minimum Requirements for all Instructor/Coordinator Levels.

- (i) Current CPR Certification that is maintained throughout the Instructor/Coordinator license period.
- (ii) Successful completion of a Department-recognized EMS instructional preparation curriculum or Department-recognized equivalent not more than three (3) years prior to the application.
- (iii) Current Georgia healthcare license that is maintained throughout the instructor/coordinator license period in a field specified by the Department that is at or above the Instructor/Coordinator level, together with documentation of a minimum length of continuous licensure and active clinical practice in Georgia or another state or territory at that healthcare license level.
- (iv) Documentation of competency in national EMS clinical standards as evidenced by:
 - (I) For an applicant who is licensed by the Department, current certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) which is maintained throughout the Instructor/Coordinator license period, as follows:

- I. An applicant licensed by the Department as an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic shall hold NREMT certification at the applicant's Medic license level;
 - II. An applicant licensed by the Department as an EMT-I shall hold NREMT certification at the EMT level; and
 - III. An applicant licensed by the Department as a Cardiac Technician shall hold NREMT certification at the AEMT level; or
- (II) For an applicant who licensed by a Georgia licensing authority other than the Department, successful completion of the NREMT assessment exam at or above the Instructor/Coordinator level within a time frame specified by the Department.
- (iv) Documentation of at least forty (40) hours of active teaching/internship in a Department-approved EMS Initial Education Program that meets or exceeds objectives specified by the Department.
2. Additional Requirements for EMS Instructor/Coordinator (Paramedic).
- (i) Current ACLS Certification that is maintained throughout the Instructor/Coordinator license period.
 - (ii) An Associate Degree or higher from an academic institution that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The degree may be in any major.

~~(3) — License Renewal for Emergency Medical Service Instructors:~~

~~(a) The emergency medical service instructor — level I must:~~

~~1. Maintain a license in good standing as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician-intermediate, advanced emergency medical technician, cardiac technician, paramedic, registered nurse, physician's assistant or physician;~~

~~(b) The emergency medical service instructor — level II must:~~

~~1. Maintain a license in good standing as an advanced emergency medical technician, cardiac technician, paramedic, registered nurse, physician's assistant or physician.~~

~~(c) The emergency medical service instructor — level III must:~~

~~1. Maintain a license in good standing as a paramedic, registered nurse, physician's assistant, or physician~~

~~(d) The instructor must teach a minimum of forty hours per instructor license renewal period in approved courses.~~

~~(e) The instructor must participate in a minimum of twenty four hours of department approved continuing education in instructional techniques per license renewal period.~~

~~(4) Inactive Status for Instructors. Any instructor who does not meet the above requirements will be placed in an inactive status.~~

~~(5) Reinstatement of Instructor Status. Any instructor, whose license is placed in an inactive status for a period of not more than four years, may be reinstated to an active status by meeting the following requirements:~~

~~(a) The eligibility for instructor licensure standards at the appropriate level;~~

~~(b) For each year of inactive status participate in a minimum of twelve hours of continuing education in instructional techniques approved by the department;~~

~~(c) Demonstrate proficiency by the successful completion of practical and written examinations approved by the department; and~~

~~(d) Instructors whose license has been inactive or revoked for four years plus one day or more must complete all requirements anew.~~

(3) License Renewal for EMS Instructors and EMS Instructor/Coordinators.

(a) Licensed EMS Instructors and EMS Instructor/Coordinators may renew their licenses biennially by submitting a renewal application on or before the expiration date. A renewal application shall be submitted on the form specified by the Department and shall include adequate documentation of the licensee's compliance with the continuing education and active teaching requirements set forth below. The Department may, in its discretion, specify mandatory continuing education topics during the renewal cycle.

1. EMS Instructors must submit adequate documentation of the following for each renewal cycle:

(i) Completion of twelve (12) hours of Department-approved instructor continuing education during the renewal cycle in instructional topics, six (6) of which must be approved only for instructors. Continuing education courses/hours applied towards the continuing education requirements for renewal of a Georgia healthcare provider license may not be applied towards the continuing education requirements for renewal of an EMS Instructor license.

(ii) Completion of twenty (20) hours of active teaching during the renewal cycle in Department-approved continuing education

courses or EMS Initial Education Courses offered by designated EMS Initial Education Programs.

2. EMS Instructor/Coordinators must submit adequate documentation of the following for each renewal cycle:

- (i) Completion of twenty-four (24) hours of Department-approved instructor continuing education during the renewal cycle in instructional topics, twelve (12) of which must be approved only for instructors. Continuing education courses/hours applied towards the continuing education requirements for renewal of a Georgia healthcare provider license may not be applied towards the continuing education requirements for renewal of an EMS Instructor/Coordinator license.
- (ii) Completion of forty (40) hours of active teaching during the renewal cycle in EMS Initial Education Courses offered by designated EMS Initial Education Programs, twenty (20) of which must be taught at or above the Instructor/Coordinator level.

(b) An EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator license that is not renewed prior to the expiration date shall be placed in lapsed status. A lapsed license may be renewed during a six-month late renewal period immediately following the expiration date, provided that all requirements for license renewal are met.

(c) An EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator license that is not renewed prior to the end of the late renewal period shall be expired and not eligible for renewal. To regain licensure, the individual must submit a new application to the Department and meet all current eligibility requirements for licensure as an EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator.

(4) License Fees for EMS Instructors and EMS Instructor/Coordinators.

(a) All applications for initial licensure as an EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator or for renewal of an EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator license submitted on or after July 1, 2021, shall be accompanied by a fee payable to the Department in an amount and form determined by the Department.

(b) All applications for late renewal of an EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator license submitted on or after January 1, 2023, shall be accompanied by the applicable renewal fee, plus a late renewal penalty fee in an amount equal to the renewal fee, payable to the Department in a form determined by the Department.

(56) Clinical Preceptors.

- (a) Clinical preceptors may precept ~~P~~paramedic, ~~advanced emergency medical technician~~AEMT, and ~~emergency medical technician~~EMT students at or below the preceptor's provider license level.
- (b) Clinical preceptors ~~can only~~must be approved by the ~~course coordinator~~Program Director of the EMS Initial Continuing Education Program and the ~~course~~mProgram's EMS Medical Ddirector after successfully completing a clinical preceptor training course approved by the Ddepartment.
- (c) The course coordinator must maintain student clinical records involving clinical preceptors for ~~two years from the student's course completion~~a time period specified in the Department's published record retention schedule for EMS Initial Education Programs.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-3, 31-2A-6, 31-11-5, 31-11-51 to 31-11-61.

Rule 511-9-2-.18. Standards of Conduct for Licensees

In order to protect the public and ensure the integrity of the emergency medical response system, all persons licensed by the Department pursuant to Chapter 31-11, all owners and officers of entities licensed pursuant to Chapter 31-11, and all applicants for a license pursuant to Chapter 31-11 (hereinafter licensees) shall at all times meet the following standards of conduct:

- (1) A licensee shall comply at all times with the provisions of Chapter 31-11 and the Rules and Regulations of the Department.
- (2) A licensee shall not obtain a license by fraud, forgery, deception, misrepresentation, or omission of a material fact.
- (3) A licensee shall not present a check to the Department for which there are insufficient funds in the account.
- (4) A licensee shall not tamper with, alter, or change any license issued by the Department.
- (5) A licensee shall fully cooperate with the Department and its agents during the course of any investigation or inspection, and provide true information upon request.
- (6) A licensee shall take no action in any other jurisdiction that would result in a fine, suspension, or revocation of any license similar to that issued to the licensee pursuant to Chapter 31-11.
- (7) A licensee shall not advertise its services in a false or misleading manner.
- (8) A licensee shall not provide any type or level of service that is not authorized by its license or by law.
- (9) A licensee shall not provide services while its license is suspended, or revoked, inactive, or has lapsed for failure to renew, whether personally or through employees, agents, or volunteers.
- (10) A licensee shall correct as soon as practicable all violations and deficiencies found during a Department inspection.
- (11) A licensee's equipment shall be clean and in proper operating condition at all times.
- (12) A licensee shall not falsify a patient record or any other document which the licensee is required to maintain under state or federal law or Department regulations.
- (13) A licensee shall not employ fraud or misrepresentation to obtain a fee or any reimbursement in the course of Emergency Medical Services or other services under its licensure.
- (14) A licensee shall report to the Department within ten days the bringing of any criminal charges against the licensee, whether by arrest warrant, information, accusation, or indictment. This subsection shall not apply to minor traffic offenses.

(15) A licensee shall, upon request by the Ddepartment, submit copies or permit inspection of any document, which the licensee is required to maintain under state or federal law or Ddepartment regulations.

(16) A licensee shall not provide services while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, nor permit any employee or co-worker to do so.

(17) A licensee shall use no less than the requisite number of licensed individuals applicable to its license.

(18) A licensee shall act with due regard for the safety of patients and the public in the operation of an emergency vehicle, and shall not use vehicle warning devices unnecessarily or in a manner that endangers the safety of the patient or the public.

(19) A licensee shall not aid or abet the unlicensed practice of emergency medical care.

(20) A licensee shall not accept anything of value in return for a patient referral.

(21) A licensee shall abide by all regional ambulance zoning plans.

(22) A licensee shall take no action that would jeopardize the health or safety of a patient, including without limitation the abandonment or mistreatment of a patient.

(23) A licensee shall pay all administrative fines in full within thirty days.

(24) A licensee shall display proper identification at all times while on duty, including the Georgia level of licensure.

(25) A licensee shall maintain the confidentiality of all patient records and information.

(26) A licensee shall take no action that results in a criminal conviction on a felony charge, a crime of moral turpitude, or the crime of driving under the influence or possession of a controlled substance.

(27) An EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator licensee shall maintain student records as required by the Ddepartment, and shall meet all license renewal requirements.

(28) ~~An EMS instructor licensee must receive a satisfactory evaluation after being monitored by the department on two occasions within a twelve-month period.~~ An EMS Instructor/Coordinator licensee serving as the Program Director of a designated EMS Initial Education Program shall ensure that all state, national, and applicable accreditation requirements are met for each student before validating that the student has completed the course and/or is clear to test the National Registry exam for the respective level of initial education.

(29) A licensee shall not discriminate on the basis of national origin, race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic status, or physical or mental ability in providing services.

(30) A licensee shall not violate any lawful order of the Ddepartment.

(31) A licensee shall not violate any statute or regulation, state or federal, which pertains to Emergency Medical Services.

(32) A licensee shall not violate the security of any exam or exam material for purposes of obtaining or maintaining an EMS license by any means including but not limited to removing any exam materials from an examination area, the unauthorized possession of exam materials, the unauthorized reproduction of exam materials, impersonating an examinee, or having another person take an exam on behalf of a licensee.

(33) An EMS Instructor or EMS Instructor/Coordinator serving as the Program Director, Course Coordinator, Lead Instructor, Clinical Coordinator, or other instructional staff in a EMS Initial Education course shall ensure that all data related to any student, instructor or preceptor that is submitted to or required by the Department is accurate and factual and complies with all state, national, and applicable accreditation requirements.

(34) A licensee shall not issue a certificate of credit/completion for EMS continuing education hours to any person without the person meeting the EMS continuing education completion requirements as specified by the Department for the respective EMS continuing education course.

(35) A licensee shall take no action that would jeopardize the health, safety, or wellbeing of a student, including without limitation the abandonment or mistreatment of a student.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 511-9-2-.18

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-3, 31-2A-6, 31-11-5, 31-11-6, 31-11-9, 31-11-30, 31-11-36, 31-11-56, 31-11-57, 50-13-18.