



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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To: EMS Agency Operational Medical Directors
Regional EMS Councils

From: Michael D. Berg
Manager, Regulation and Compliance

Subject: Disciplinary Action by EMS agency Operational Medical Director's

During the October 19 meeting of the Medical Direction Committee, a standing committee of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, discussion occurred regarding the EMS regulation that requires all EMS agency Operational Medical Directors (OMD's) to notify the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) whenever any disciplinary action is taken against a certified EMS personnel.

Virginia Emergency Medical Services Regulations (January 2003) 12 VAC 5-1890 (B) (5) Responsibilities of operational medical directors, states in part:

"5. Suspending certified EMS personnel from medical care duties pending a review and evaluation. Following final review, the OMD shall notify the provider, the EMS agency and the Office of EMS in writing of the nature and length of any suspension of practice privileges that are a result of disciplinary action."

Those regional OMD's present agreed and understood that notwithstanding any actions they may initiate against an EMS provider, OEMS retains the right to conduct their own investigation. OEMS may initiate a separate investigation against the EMS provider and take enforcement action if a violation of the EMS Regulations has occurred. Although it is not uncommon for OEMS to be notified by the EMS Agency OMD after some disciplinary action has been taken against an EMS provider, there are many other instances where such action by the OMD is not reported to OEMS as required. This memorandum is sent as a reminder to any physician serving as an OMD for a licensed EMS agency that all disciplinary actions taken against certified EMS personnel must be reported to the Office of EMS. Please do not hesitate to contact the Manager of the OEMS Regulation and Compliance unit if you have additional questions.