

SUMMARY SHEET
SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

September 7, 2017

() ACTION/DECISION

(X) INFORMATION

I. TITLE: Health Regulation Administrative and Consent Orders.

II. SUBJECT: Health Regulation Administrative Orders, Consent Orders, and Emergency Suspension Orders for the period of July 1, 2017, through July 31, 2017.

III. FACTS: For the period of July 1, 2017, through July 31, 2017, Health Regulation reports three (3) Consent Orders with a total of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in assessed monetary penalties.

Health Regulation Bureau	Health Care Facility, Provider or Equipment	Administrative Orders	Consent Orders	Emergency Suspension Orders	License Suspensions	Assessed Penalties
EMS & Trauma	Paramedic	0	1	0	0	\$0
	Ambulance Services Provider	0	1	0	0	\$500
	EMT	0	1	0	0	\$500
TOTAL		0	3	0	0	\$1,000

Approved By:

Shelly Bezanson Kelly
Director of Health Regulation

HEALTH REGULATION ENFORCEMENT REPORT
SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

September 7, 2017

Bureau of EMS & Trauma

EMS Provider Type	Total # of Providers in South Carolina
EMT	5,960
Advanced EMT	381
Paramedic	3,693
Athletic Trainers	949
Ambulance Services Provider	261
First Responder Services Provider	2

1. Precise Care Transport, Inc. (Ambulance Services Provider)

Investigation: Based upon an emergency medical technician’s (“EMT”) failure to timely renew her EMT certification, the Department initiated an investigation to determine whether the EMT continued to perform patient care without a valid EMT certification. As a result of its investigation, the Department determined the employee performed patient care within the scope of an EMT while being uncertified as a South Carolina EMT on six (6) ambulance runs while working for Precise Care Transport, Inc. (“Precise”) on January 16, 2017.

Violations: As a result of its investigation, the Department found Precise violated S.C. Code Section 44-61-70(B)(1) by allowing an uncertified person to perform patient care within the scope of an EMT. Specifically, while working for Precise, an uncertified person performed patient care within the scope of an EMT on six (6) ambulance runs.

Enforcement Action: Pursuant to the terms of the Consent Order executed July 12, 2017, Precise agreed to the assessment of a five hundred dollar (\$500) monetary penalty. The assessed monetary penalty shall be satisfied within one hundred twenty (120) days of execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Sanctions: None.

2. Betty Harris (EMT)

Investigation: Betty Harris is a certified South Carolina EMT. Ms. Harris’s certification expired January 15, 2017. The Department received Ms. Harris’s certification renewal package January 19, 2017. Subsequently, the Department renewed Ms. Harris’s certification on January 26, 2017. Based upon Ms. Harris’s failure to timely renew her certification, the Department initiated an investigation and determined Ms. Harris performed patient care within the scope of an EMT on six (6) ambulance runs while working for Precise Care Transport, Inc. on January 16, 2017.

Violations: Ms. Harris violated S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(A) and Section 901.A of Regulation 61-7, by providing patient care within the scope of an EMT without obtaining proper certification from the Department.

Enforcement Action: Pursuant to the terms of the Consent Order executed July 13, 2017, Ms. Harris agreed to the assessment of a five hundred dollar (\$500) monetary penalty. The assessed monetary penalty shall be held in abeyance for twelve (12) months following execution of the Consent Order. If at any time during the twelve (12) month period the Department finds Ms. Harris violated the EMS Act or Regulation 61-7, the Department may call in all or part of the assessed monetary penalty.

Prior Sanctions: None.

3. Amy Cline (Paramedic)

Investigation: On July 27, 2016, the Department received a complaint regarding alleged actions of Ms. Cline on July 14, 2016, while employed by Family Medical Transport (“FMT”). Based upon an investigation, the Department found that on July 14, 2016, Ms. Cline and her partner responded to a nursing home for a call regarding a patient with low blood pressure. Upon arrival to the nursing home, Ms. Cline observed the patient sitting in the dining room eating his lunch. The patient subsequently put his remaining food in his mouth and moved himself to the stretcher. At that time, the patient began to have trouble breathing and subsequently stopped breathing. After determining the patient was in cardiac arrest, Ms. Cline and her partner began CPR. While her partner performed chest compressions, Ms. Cline attempted to clear the patient’s airway but was unsuccessful. After her unsuccessful attempts to clear the patient’s airway, Ms. Cline started an IV line on the patient. Ms. Cline was in the process of starting the IV line on the patient upon arrival of another FMT crew for backup assistance. The backup crew’s paramedic established and secured the patient’s airway. FMT’s Adult Asystole Protocol, approved and signed by FMT’s medical control physician and assistant medical control physician, requires establishment and securing of the patient’s airway before attempting IV access.

Violations: As a result of its investigation, the Department found Ms. Cline committed “misconduct,” as defined by S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(F)(6) and Section 1100(B)(6) of Regulation 61-7, by disregarding an appropriate order by a physician regarding treatment. Additionally, Ms. Cline failed to provide emergency medical treatment of a quality deemed acceptable by the Department, in accordance with S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(F). Specifically, Ms. Cline failed to provide treatment in accordance with nationally accepted CPR and advanced cardiac life support (“ACLS”) standards. Nationally accepted standards require EMTs to establish and secure a patient’s airway prior to attempting to establish an IV line.

Enforcement Action: Pursuant to the Consent Order executed July 25, 2017, Ms. Cline agreed to a six (6) month suspension of her Paramedic certificate. The suspension will be held in abeyance for six (6) months. Should Ms. Cline fail to comply with the EMS Act, Regulation 61-7, or the terms of the Consent Order, the Department may call in all or a portion of the agreed upon suspension. Additionally, Ms. Cline agreed to take a sixteen (16) hour ACLS course within six (6) months following execution of the Consent Order and provide proof of successful completion to the Department.

Prior Sanctions: None.