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EHS PARAMEDIC/EMD CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

EHS expects that Paramedics/EMD's registered in the Province of Nova Scotia shall adhere to the following "Code of Conduct."

Principles of Ethical Behavior for EHS Registrants

1. The well-being of the patient must be the primary concern.
2. Recognize your limitations and the skills of others in the care and treatment of the patient.
3. Protect and maintain patient confidentiality.
4. Teach and be taught.
5. Remember that integrity and professional ability should be your best advertisement.
6. Honour your profession.

Responsibilities to the Patient

An ethical prehospital care practitioner.

1. Must provide care based on human need with respect for human dignity.
2. Must provide patient care within scope of practice and to the best of the registered member's ability, seeking consultation where necessary.
3. Must protect and maintain the patient's safety, dignity and privacy.
4. Must, once having accepted responsibility for a patient or the provision of patient care, continue to provide care until it is no longer required or care is being provided by an appropriate practitioner.
5. Must hold in confidence all personal information entrusted to the member in the health care setting respecting the patient unless failure to disclose would endanger the patient or a third party or the disclosure is required by law.

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Responsibilities of the Profession

An ethical prehospital care practitioner

1. Must behave in a way beyond reproach and report any incompetent, illegal or unethical conduct by colleagues or other health care personnel to the EHS Registrar.
2. Must conduct and present oneself in such a manner so as to encourage and merit the respect of the public for members of the prehospital profession.
3. Must avoid impugning the reputation of any colleague.
4. Must assume responsibility for personal and professional development.
5. Must not use the member's profession, knowledge or skills for unethical gain.
6. Must strive to improve the standards of medical services in the member's community.
7. Shall accept a share of the profession's responsibility to society in matters relating to the health and safety of the public, health education and legislation affecting the health or well-being of the community.
8. Must observe the rules of professional conduct set out in this Code in the spirit, as well as the well-being of the community.

Responsibilities of Conduct & Competency Committee Members

1. This committee will act as a peer review/evaluation/investigation body, making recommendations to the EHS Provincial Medical Director (PMD) to deal with matters concerning professional conduct or competency to help ensure the highest quality of patient care.
2. Members of the committee shall reveal any conflicts which impinge upon the proceedings of the committee.
3. Members of the committee shall respect the confidences of the committee.
4. No member of the committee shall accept benefits for their activities on the committee except duty authorized compensation for their activities.
5. Members of the committee shall not advance a claim, assert a position, or bring forth evidence which they know or believe to be false.
6. Members of the committee shall not delay the proceedings of the committee unreasonably, or use the activities of the committee to harass or maliciously injure another.
7. Members shall be diligent in their representations during proceedings for the committee.
8. Members of the committee who know that an article of this Code has been broken shall promptly reveal this information.

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REGISTRATION IDENTIFICATION CARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EHS wants to ensure Paramedics/EMD's are familiar with the terms and conditions of the Registration Identification (ID) Card. By accepting the ID card, you certify that you have read, understood and agree to these terms of issue. *(Failure to comply with these guidelines constitutes grounds for potential revocation of registration following the Review Process)*

The card is proof of Registration as an EHS Paramedic/EMD. It serves as a symbol of your registration level, competence and professionalism. In essence, it allows you to practice paramedicine in the Province of Nova Scotia as sanctioned by the Provincial Medical Director/EHS.

You are fully responsible for your ID card. Therefore you must:

1. Ensure your ID card is not defaced or altered. It is EHS property and if damaged, it could be revoked.
2. Report its loss or theft immediately to the EHS Registrar.
3. Never lend your ID card.
4. Wear the ID card conspicuously, with the EHS logo side out, at all times when on duty. *(Its first purpose is to identify you - quickly and easily - as a person authorized to perform patient care.)*
5. Your ID card is only to be worn when working as a Paramedic/EMD in Nova Scotia.
6. *"This card remains the property of the Department of Health."* Turn in your ID card upon inactivation of registration, or when requested by the EHS Registrar.