

Tony Evers
Governor

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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February 20, 2024

(Via E-Mail and Certified Mail)

Andrew C. Hanson
813 3rd Street
Kiel, WI 53042

Re: Reprimand of Andrew C. Hanson #70112089

Dear Mr. Hanson:

The Department of Health Services (Department), Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section, hereby reprimands you, Andrew C. Hanson, License #70112089, for not maintaining current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification while providing EMS instruction, as required by Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.17(2)(a), Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.17(3)(a) and for failing to maintain current certification with the National Registry of Emergency Technicians while acting as an EMS Instructor II, as required by Wis. Admin Code DHS § 110.28(1).

Factual Basis for the Department's Action

On December 21, 2022, the Department received a complaint involving your EMS Instructor II license and your NREMT and CPR certifications.

You were initially licensed as a paramedic in Wisconsin on August 23, 2018. You were initially licensed as an EMS Instructor II in Wisconsin on December 11, 2018.

Facts related to providing instruction as an EMS Instructor II without current CPR certification

On February 13, 2023, the Department requested from Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) a copy of all your CPR certifications they had on file from 2020 to 2023 while working as an EMS Instructor II and providing CPR or AED instruction to emergency medical responders.

FVTC provided the Department a copy of your CPR certifications from 2020 to 2023 that documented your CPR certification, issued by the American Heart Association, expired at the end of December 2020. The records provided by FVTC documented that you did not renew your CPR certification until October 10, 2022.

The American Heart Association requires certificate holders to retake a renewal course every two years to main their certification. The renewal course covers all the lifesaving skills included in a

full CPR class and provides any updates or changes to the CPR process. The course ensures competency by providing practice during the hands-on skills and testing skills with both a written and practical exam.

FVTC also provided the Department with documentation listing that you acted as an EMS Instructor II for initial paramedic courses, involving CPR and AED instruction to emergency responders, from January 1, 2021, to October 10, 2022, when you did not hold a current CPR certification.

Interview with you confirmed that you acted as an EMS Instructor II for initial paramedic courses, involving CPR and AED instruction to emergency responders, from January 1, 2021, to October 10, 2022, when you did not hold a current CPR certification. During this interview, you admitted to teaching American Heart Association material, relating to CPR and AED instruction, when you did not hold current CPR certification.

Facts related to providing instruction as an EMS Instructor II without NREMT certification

On October 5, 2020, you completed and submitted the 2020-2023 EMS Instructor License Renewal Application. Part of that application involved attesting to statements and answering questions regarding your NREMT certification. On the 2020-2023 EMS Instructor License Renewal Application, you entered your initials to indicate you agree with the following statements:

I understand that Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.28(1) states “Eligibility. Before an individual may act as an EMS instructor II, the individual shall be certified by the department under this section. The individual shall be licensed by the department at or above the level of instruction the individual will provide and shall have: current certification with the NREMT at or above the level for which the individual requests approval; the equivalency of 2 years experience as a licensed, practicing EMT at or above the level of EMS instructor certification being requested or equivalent critical care experience as determined by the department; supervised teaching experience; and EMS instructor II orientation training.

I understand that Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.28(2)(a) states “Documentation of current certification with the NREMT at the EMT basic level or higher and at or above the level for which the applicant seeks department certification. If the applicant is an EMT- paramedic licensed under this chapter before January 1, 2013, certification with the NREMT is not required. Certification with the NREMT at the EMT-paramedic level is required for critical care paramedic EMS instructor II certification.

In addition, under the NREMT Expiration Date section, you entered, “03/31/2022”.

You then dated the application “October 5, 2020” and electronically signed the application by use of your password and submitted the application at 13:01 hours. The e-licensing system then auto

generated your renewed EMS Instructor II license for the 2020-2023 triennium period based on the information you provided in your application.

On February 13, 2023, the Department requested from Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) a copy of all your NREMT certifications they had on file from 2020 to 2023, while you acted as an EMS Instructor II and provided instruction to emergency medical students and professionals.

FVTC provided the Department a copy of your NREMT credentialing from 2020 to 2023 that documented your NREMT certification at the paramedic level expired on March 31, 2022. FVTC also provided the Department with documentation listing that you acted as an EMS Instructor II for initial paramedic courses, which involved providing instruction to paramedic students, from April 1, 2022, to October 7, 2022, when you did not hold current NREMT certification at the paramedic level.

On December 1, 2023, the Department contacted the NRMET and verified that your NREMT paramedic certification lapsed on March 31, 2022. The NREMT also notified the department that you retested for NREMT certification at the paramedic level on January 1, 2023, and that you regained NREMT certification at the paramedic level on February 9, 2023.

Interview with you confirmed that you acted as an EMS Instructor II for initial paramedic courses, from April 1, 2022, to October 7, 2022, when you did not hold current NREMT certification at the paramedic level.

Legal Authority for Department Action

Under Wis. Admin Code DHS § 110.56,

The department may reprimand a licensee, permit holder, or certificate holder if the department finds that the person has violated a requirement of this chapter or ch. 256, Stats., or engaged in conduct described in s. DHS 110.54. A reprimand documents the department's finding that the permittee, certificate holder or licensee has violated a requirement of this chapter or ch. 256, Stats., or has engaged in conduct described in s. DHS 110.54. A reprimand may be in the form of a letter issued to the person who is the subject of the reprimand...

Wis. Admin. Code DHS §110.54 provides:

The department may take any enforcement action under ss. 110.55 to 110.58, which it determines is appropriate against a person subject to the requirements of this chapter and ss. 256.12 to 256.18, Stats., for any of the following reasons:

(4) The person violated any provision of ch. 256, Stats., or this chapter.

Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.17(2)(a) provides:

(a) Any person who provides CPR and AED instruction to an emergency medical services

practitioner or emergency medical responder shall successfully complete any one of the following courses with a certification period not to exceed 2 years:

1. American Heart Association — Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers course or equivalent.

Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.17(3)(a) provides:

An individual who provides CPR or AED instruction to an emergency medical services practitioner, emergency medical responder, or a person who is required as a condition of licensure, certification, or registration to have current proficiency in the use of an AED, shall meet all of the qualifications, including qualifications for frequency of training, that are specified by the approved provider with whom the instructor is affiliated, employed or under contract.

Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.28(1) provides:

Eligibility. Before an individual may act as an EMS instructor II, the individual shall be certified by the department under this section. The individual shall be licensed by the department at or above the level of instruction the individual will provide and shall have: current certification with the NREMT at or above the level for which the individual requests approval; the equivalency of 2 years experience as a licensed, practicing emergency medical services practitioner at or above the level of EMS instructor certification being requested or equivalent critical care experience as determined by the department; supervised teaching experience; and EMS instructor II orientation training.

Department Action

Based on the records submitted, it has been determined that while licensed as an EMS Instructor II, you did not maintain current CPR certification while providing EMS instruction, as required by Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.17(3)(a). The department also determined that you failed to maintain current certification with the NREMT while acting as an EMS Instructor II, as required by Wis. Admin Code DHS § 110.28(1).

Maintaining a valid CPR certification is paramount for an EMS Instructor II, as it directly aligns with the instructor's responsibility to teach life-saving skills to students. CPR, a fundamental component of emergency pre-hospital training, requires precision and up to date knowledge, and a valid CPR certification ensures that the instructor possesses the latest techniques and guidelines to deliver competent instruction. By staying current with your CPR certification as an EMS Instructor II, you demonstrate competence and serve as a role model for students, emphasizing the importance of ongoing education and skill refinement. In the dynamic field of emergency medical services, where timely and effective intervention is crucial, a valid CPR certification is not only a professional requirement, but a commitment to ensuring that students and EMS professionals receive the most accurate and current life saving instruction from you.

You provided CPR and AED instruction to EMS professionals while not having current CPR certification. CPR certification signifies expertise in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, a fundamental skill in pre-hospital emergency response. Failing to maintain valid CPR certification poses significant dangers for your role as an EMS Instructor II as it directly undermines your ability to impart crucial life saving skills to students. CPR serves as a critical component of emergency medical training and an instructor's expertise in this area is crucial. Without CPR certification, you risked providing outdated information, potentially compromising the quality of education and more critically, jeopardizing the preparedness of future emergency medical professionals. Giving the fast-paced nature of EMS, a lapsed CPR certification not only endangers your credibility as the instructor, but also compromises the safety of those who relied on your training and instruction in high pressure and or life or death emergency situations.

Maintaining current NREMT certification is crucial for an EMS Instructor II due to its role in upholding professional standards and ensuring the instructor's competency. NREMT certification signifies a comprehensive understanding of pre-hospital emergency care, including the latest protocols and techniques. In your role as an EMS Instructor II, NREMT certification served as a tangible demonstration of an ongoing commitment to excellence in the field, instilling confidence in both students and EMS professionals. NREMT certification also reflected your dedication to staying current with evolving medical practices and helped foster a competent learning environment. Your conduct shows that you provided EMS instruction without current NREMT certification which is contrary to the safe performance of an EMS teaching professional.

Not possessing NREMT certification as an EMS Instructor II can have detrimental consequences for both the quality of teaching and the prospects of students aiming to become paramedics or obtaining any other EMS certification. Without proper credentials, your legitimacy and adherence to recognized standards as an EMS Instructor II may be questioned, potentially compromising the integrity of your students and the entire paramedic training program. EMS students rely on being taught by instructors with valid certifications, ensuring that they receive accurate and current information crucial for their roles as EMS providers. In the absence of a certified instructor, EMS professionals and students may face challenges during the certification and licensure exams, as the training they received from you may not aligns with the required standards. Lacking the appropriate credentials not only invalidates the teaching imparted by you, but also jeopardizes your students' abilities to successfully test and embark on their careers as qualified and competent EMS professionals.

In accordance with Wis. Admin. Code DHS §110.56, the Department will post the reprimand on the Department's website, will retain a copy of this letter of reprimand in your file, and may consider it in determining what further enforcement action may be appropriate if violations continue.

Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.56, the Department's issuance of this reprimand is a final decision of the Department and is not subject to an administrative hearing.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact the EMS Section at 608-266-1568 or dhsemssmail@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Andrew C. Hanson #70112089

February 20, 2024

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Natalie Easterday", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Natalie Easterday

Director

Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care

Wisconsin Department of Health Services