

June License Expiration

As a reminder, four years ago in the early months of COVID-19, IDPH allowed all licenses to have extensions. This resulted in most licenses with April, May and June renewals to now have June as their new expiration date. As a result, this June will have more license renewals than any other time. Please submit your renewals as early as possible.

Continuing Education Reminder

Memorial EMS hosts continuing education twice a month on the second Friday of the month at 9 a.m. and the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This is provided by one of the EMS medical directors or an Emergency Medicine resident. This is free to all providers and allows for providers to ask any relevant questions to the physician providing the education. With continued low numbers of attendees, we want to remind all system providers of this opportunity to obtain high-quality education from the comfort of your home, office or quarters. Please sign up via [HealthStream](#).

Illinois Petition Process and Mobile Crisis Response

In Illinois, the involuntary petition process for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is designed to provide immediate care for individuals experiencing a severe mental health crisis who pose a danger to themselves or others. The process typically begins when a qualified mental health professional, law enforcement officer or other authorized individual assesses the person in crisis and determines that they require immediate intervention. That qualified individual must then complete a petition form detailing the individual's condition and the reasons why involuntary admission is necessary. This form is submitted to a facility that can provide the required mental health evaluation. The form is a specific legal document and is required to be completed for a person to be held for evaluation.

In-field mental health screeners will complete the form prior to transport to the ED. When law enforcement is completing the petition, they may complete it at the hospital but if completing at the hospital, they must come with (follow) the transport unit and complete the petition upon arrival at the ED. As we continue to work through processes, we will update transport providers on mechanisms to document the petition. Because of the petition, the individual is transported to a facility where they undergo a thorough evaluation by a mental health professional. Every Emergency Department has the capacity to complete this required evaluation and this evaluation must occur to determine if involuntary admission is warranted. The petition only requires evaluation, it does not equate involuntary admission. If the criteria for involuntary admission are met, the individual may be held for further treatment. After the evaluation, if they do not meet criteria for involuntary admission, they may be released. The process ensures that individuals in severe crisis receive prompt and appropriate care while balancing their civil liberties.

Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) is a service designed to help fulfill the legislative mandate to provide mental health services in the community. There are a variety of ways this is completed. Memorial Behavioral Health (MBH) provides this service for Sangamon, Cass, Logan, Menard, Morgan, Scott, Mason and Christian Counties. As this covers many areas of Memorial EMS Agencies' responses we wanted to forward the following data on their responses.

EMS Update

MCR averages 300 calls per month and 87% of the call outs result in the situation being stabilized without the patient needing to be transported to the Emergency Department. That is over 2,700 patients from July to April (MBH current fiscal year) where the patient's needs were able to be met without needing EMS or ED resources. When the patient does need transport, this most commonly will be a situation where the petition is completed prior to EMS arrival. MCR will follow to the Emergency Department with the petition. We will continue to work to streamline challenges in these cases. As this program is still in its infancy, we ask that you continue to reach out with questions and challenges.

Trauma Declaration Criteria

Memorial EMS agencies transport directly to no less than nine trauma centers. It is not necessary for EMS to know the trauma declaration criteria of each facility. It is essential that EMS understands and can apply the Field Triage Scheme (protocol 16.I.1.) and apply it in patient destination conversations (6.F.1.). Many trauma centers are updating their internal declaration criteria due to changes from IDPH. Providers are reminded to follow EMS protocol and understand that individual trauma centers have great latitude in their declaration criteria.

Memorial EMS System Adds Resource Tool to the System

Memorial EMS has added an EMS System Response Vehicle to its program. This vehicle, a Ford Explorer, is licensed with the Illinois Department of Public Health as a Non-Transport Vehicle and equipped as an Emergency Medical Responder unit. The primary focus of this unit is to provide quality improvement capabilities to the EMS Systems. The vehicle will be responding to calls in the service area.

The EMS System Response Vehicle will also be able to respond to major incidents to provide on scene assistance to the responding crews. This could be providing coordination with receiving hospitals, tracking patients and their destinations or direct patient care for extreme situations. The vehicle has specialized instruments to assist in extreme patient extrication situations. Stay tuned to the monthly newsletters for additional information as this resource becomes available.

Lead Instructor and Agency Leader Meetings Reference Licensure Courses

As we work through changes with NREMT and strive to continue to make students as successful as possible, we are setting up a couple of meetings in July to review changes from NREMT and IDPH as well as well as expectations for licensure courses. These meetings are open and encouraged for anyone who teaches licensure courses and leaders of those agencies, specifically, but all Lead Instructors and Agency leaders are invited to attend. Options are July 24 at 5:30 p.m. or July 25 at 9 a.m. and will be virtual. Please contact Brown.Sara@Mhsil.com for the link to the meeting that best suits your schedule.

Licensure Courses

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