

# NEBRASKA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY HEALTH SYSTEMS

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STUDENT AND LICENSEE HANDBOOK



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## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Emergency Health Systems (OEHS) is a Department program of Public Health within the Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of this handbook is to be a point of reference for all of the programs managed by the OEHS. The most current information for each program, contact information, and up-to-date handbook can be found on the OEHS website at [www.dhhs.ne.gov/ehs](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/ehs).

OEHS programs include:

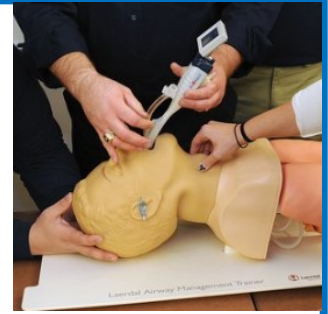
- Education
- EMS Licensing
- Emergency Medical Services technical assistance
- Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)
- Stroke and STEMI Systems of Care
- Trauma System of Care
- Data Systems (eNARSIS and Trauma Registry)

The OEHS also manages or coordinates:

- EMS Advisory Board
- EMS Rules & Regulations and Statutes
- EMS Compact
- Statewide Trauma Board
- Stroke Advisory Task Force
- CISM NE Interagency Management Team



# EMS EDUCATION



The Education program works with Nebraska approved EMS Training Agencies to maintain compliance, review EMS student pass rates, coordinate continuing education classes, and provide EMS education reimbursement.

A list of current approved EMS Training Agencies and their pass rates is listed on the Education page of the OEHS website. Per regulations, a training agency must maintain at least a 75% two year average for each provider level of instruction on the National Registry of EMT (NREMT) cognitive exam.

Tuition reimbursement is available to those who have completed an initial course within the past calendar year and have been issued an initial Nebraska EMS license. Reimbursement is also available for those who have completed a refresher course for an expired license reinstatement. The tuition reimbursement program instructions and forms can be found on the Education page. The forms should be filled out electronically. The request must be submitted by email to [dhhs.sp.ehscontinuinged@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.sp.ehscontinuinged@nebraska.gov).

## INITIAL EDUCATION COURSES (amounts are per eligible provider)

Course Completion to Request Date	Within 60 Days	61-120 Days	121-180 Days	181-365 Days
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Course	\$335.00	\$285.00	\$240.00	\$95.00
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Course	\$775.00	\$665.00	\$555.00	\$220.00
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) Course	\$1,260.00	\$1,075.00	\$900.00	\$360.00
Paramedic Course	\$5,100.00	\$4,375.00	\$3,600.00	\$1,500.00
Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Course Nurse to EMT Bridge Course	\$615.00	\$525.00	\$440.00	\$175.00
Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Course Nurse to Paramedic Bridge Course	\$2,445.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,745.00	\$700.00
EMR to EMT Bridge Course	\$580.00	\$500.00	\$415.00	\$165.00
EMT to AEMT Bridge Course	\$700.00	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$200.00

## REINSTATEMENT COURSES (amounts are per eligible provider)

Course Completion to Request Date	Within 60 Days	61-120 Days	121-180 Days	181-270 Days
Emergency Medical Responder Refresher Course	\$115.00	\$100.00	\$80.00	\$30.00
Emergency Medical Technician Refresher Course	\$150.00	\$130.00	\$110.00	\$45.00
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Refresher Course	\$210.00	\$180.00	\$150.00	\$60.00
Paramedic Refresher Course	\$220.00	\$190.00	\$160.00	\$65.00

Instructor reimbursement is also available for continuing education classes including conferences. The continuing education reimbursement program instructions and forms can be found on the EMS Education page. The forms should be filled out electronically. The request must be submitted by email to [dhhs.sp.ehscontinuinged@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.sp.ehscontinuinged@nebraska.gov).

A complete list of trainings and training dates can be found on the Nebraska EHS Training Calendar on the OEHS website and Education page. To have trainings added to the calendar not funded by the OEHS, contact the Education Manager at [wendy.snodgrass@nebraska.gov](mailto:wendy.snodgrass@nebraska.gov). The Education webpage also has an instructor list for continuing education classes. The Education Manager can assist with finding an instructor for continuing education classes.

## Initial Licensing

The State of Nebraska licenses all levels of Emergency Care Providers, Basic and Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services, and Basic and Advanced Training Agencies. A Nebraska State EMS provider license is required to perform primary patient care in Nebraska. National Registry of EMT (NREMT) certification is required for all initial provider applications. An FBI background check is required for EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic initial application. An applicant must be 18 years of age to apply.

The most current applications are found on the Licensing webpage on the OEHS website. The form should be filled out electronically and emailed to [dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov). **Applications will be denied if not filled out completely and/or required documentation not submitted.**

Required documentation for an initial application includes:

- Completed initial application
- Proof of citizenship (ie. birth certificate, passport)
- Current NREMT certification card (not certificate)
- Attachment A if ever licensed in another state
- Attachment B if seeking Temporary Licensure



## Renewal

Nebraska licensed EMTs are required to renew by March 31 of even numbered years. EMR, AEMT, EMT-I, Paramedic, EMS Instructors, and EMS Services are required to renew by March 31 of odd numbered years.

Continuing competency requirements (also called continuing education hours) are required for renewal. The most current continuing competency requirements are found in Rules and Regulations 172 NAC Chapter 11-007. A link to these regulations can be found on the OEHS website. EMS providers who were first credentialed within the 24-month period immediately prior to the renewal date are able to waive the continuing competency requirements. Those providers still need to complete the renewal process.

Nebraska licensed providers are to follow the NREMT National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) for renewal. EMT-Intermediates are excluded from the NCCP model.

### NCCP Model Hours

- EMR: 8 hours
- EMT: 20 hours
- AEMT: 25 hours
- EMT-I: 30 hours (20 hours BLS, 10 hours ALS)
- Paramedic: 30 hours

## Renewal (continued)

Below are the required NCCP continuing education hours and topics:

	<b>Airway/ Respira- tion/Vent</b>	<b>Cardiac</b>	<b>Trauma</b>	<b>Medical</b>	<b>Ops</b>
EMR	1.0	2.5	0.5	3	1
EMT	1.5	6	1.5	6	5
AEMT	2.5	7	3	7.5	5
Para- med	3.5	8.5	3	8.5	6.5

### Acceptable Continuing Competency (Found in 172 NAC Chapter 11-008)

- Be a planned, formally organized program of learning which directly contributes to the professional competency of out-of-hospital emergency care providers;
- Have objectives that demonstrate a reasonable connection to the practice of emergency medicine;
- Be made available on a specific date and time or be a distributed learning program;
- Have an instructor who has experience or training in the content area(s) of the course being taught;
- Have a course title and consist of content that is at least one-half hour in duration;
- Delineate the number of contact hours, excluding meals and breaks to be awarded at the completion of the activity, with proof of such completion being documented; and
- Have a mechanism that documents attendance and participation.

### Audits

Each licensed provider is responsible for maintaining certificates or records of continuing competency activities. It is recommended to maintain records for two renewal periods. After the renewal, a random selection of renewal applications are chosen for an audit of the continuing competency requirements. Each selected provider will be required to submit documentation of continuing competency activities by a certain date. Information on audits can be found in the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA), 38-146. A link to the UCA can be found on the OEHS website.

**For licensing questions, contact [dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov).**

## CERTIFICATION VS LICENSURE

Did you know, there is a difference between certification and licensure?

While certification shows you have met an entry level competency standard, state licensure is what gives a provider the right to work in a particular capacity.

National EMS Certification assures the public, licensing officials, and employers the EMS professional is competent. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians® (National Registry) provides National EMS Certification for the United States. ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org))

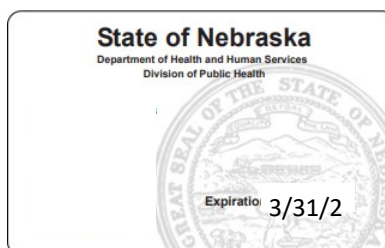
Nationally Certified EMS providers **who are not state licensed** cannot practice. After a student obtains National EMS Certification, they must obtain a license to work from the [State EMS Office](#) in the state(s) they plan to practice.

The federal government has defined “certification” as the process by which a **non-governmental organization grants recognition to an individual who has met predetermined qualifications specified by that organization.**

Licensure, on the other hand, is the state’s grant of legal authority, pursuant to the state’s police powers, to practice a profession within a designated scope of practice. Under the licensure system, states define, by statute, the tasks and function or scope of practice of a profession and provide these tasks may be legally performed only by those who are licensed. As such, licensure prohibits anyone from practicing the profession who is not licensed, regardless of whether or not the individual has been certified by a private organization.

The State of Nebraska licenses all Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediates, Paramedics, and EMS Instructors.

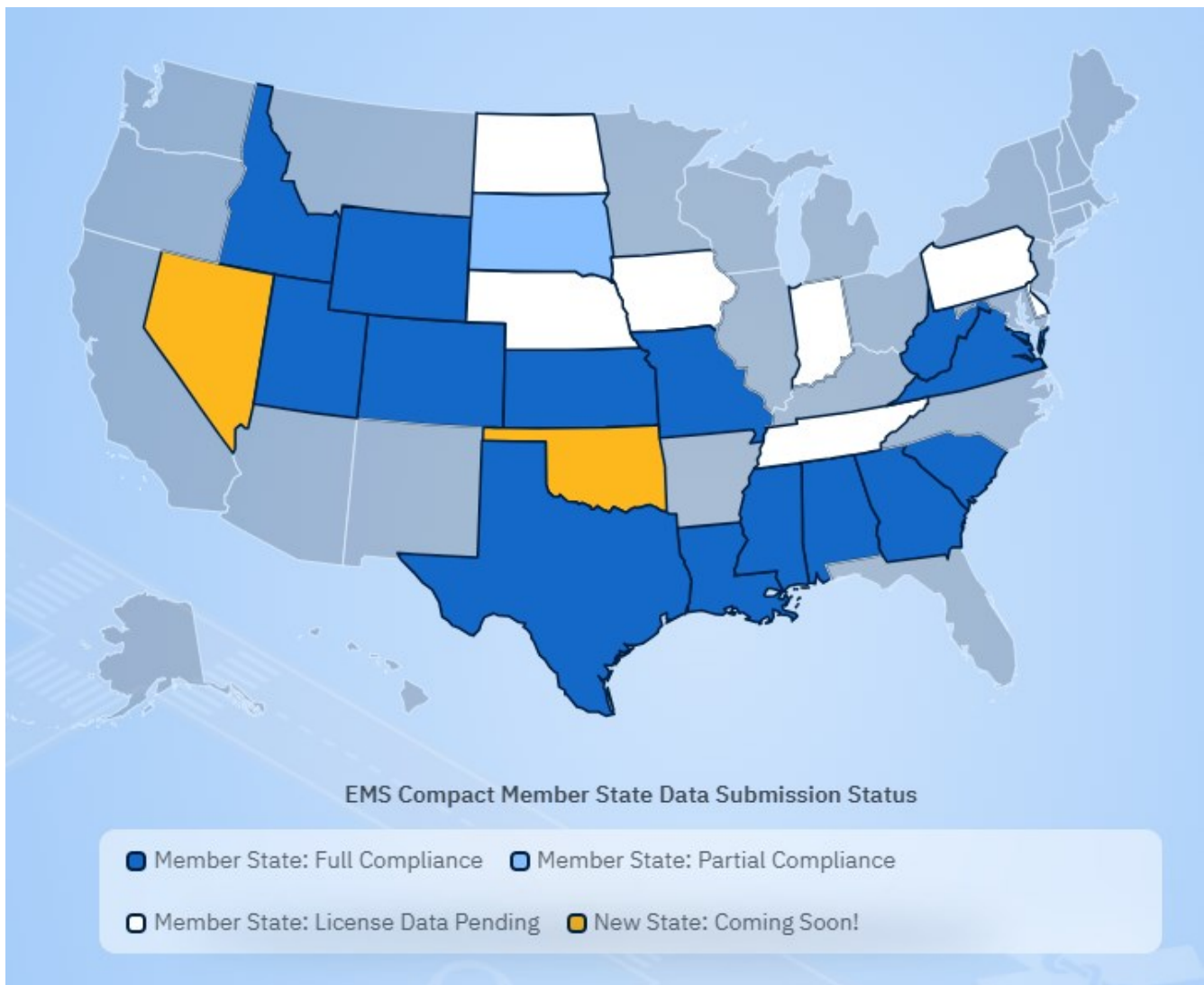
Chapter 10 and 11 of Regulations cover initial, renewal, and reinstatement requirements of provider licenses. License providers are responsible to know the requirements of their EMS provider license. Providers should also know the expiration date of their EMS provider license especially those who are issued a license of their expiration year. An EMS provider license can expire regardless of the date of issuance. The department waives continuing competency requirements for credential holders who were first credentialed within the 24-month period immediately prior to the renewal date (10-004.03(B)).



## EMS COMPACT

The EMS Compact allows EMS providers to cross state lines for specific, time limited, or intermittent basis to perform their job and return to their home state without holding a license in the other state as long as the other state is a member of the compact. The compact requires each member state to perform background checks and require NREMT certification for initial provider credentialing. The compact also gives member states authority over EMS personnel from other members states as if they were licensed within that state.

Nebraska is a member of the EMS Compact. The EMS Compact is governed by Commissioners appointed to the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice by member states. The EMS Compact went live March 13, 2020. For more information, refer to the EMS Compact website at: [www.emscompact.gov](http://www.emscompact.gov).





## **RULES & REGULATIONS AND STATUTES**

Multiple Rules & Regulations and Statutes govern Emergency Medical Services in the State of Nebraska. It is the responsibility of all Nebraska licensed providers to be familiar with these. These documents are to be used as a point of reference to answer questions regarding your provider license and/or EMS Agency license. Links to all of these documents are found on the OEHS website.

These Rules & Regulations cover EMS in Nebraska:

- Chapter 5: Mandatory Reporting
- Chapter 9: Business Credentials Issued Under the UCA
- Chapter 10: Credentials under the UCA
- Chapter 11: EMS Providers and Instructors
- Chapter 12: EMS Services
- Chapter 13: EMS Training Agencies

These Statutes cover EMS in Nebraska:

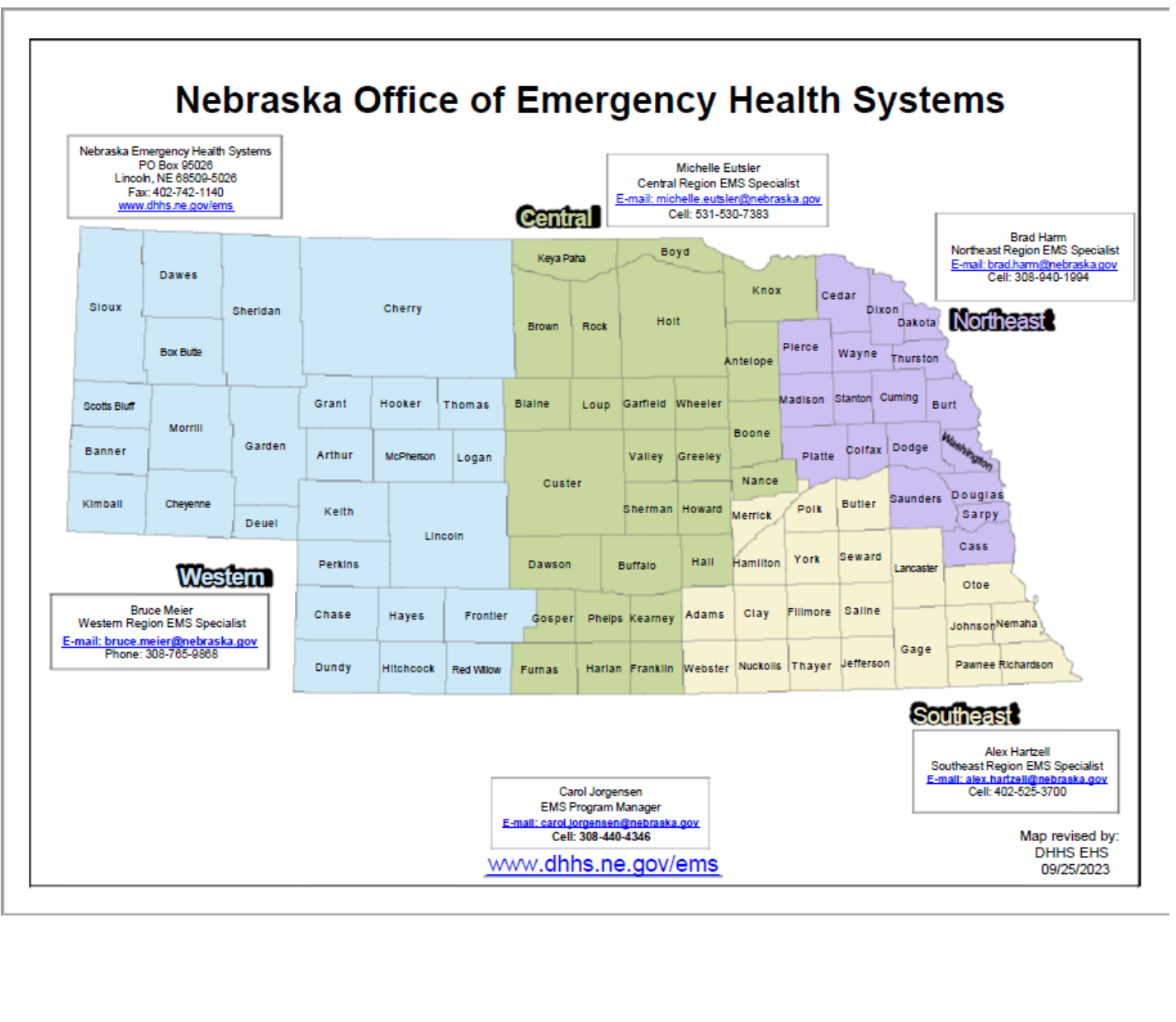
- Emergency Medical Services Practice Act
- Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA)



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Emergency Medical Services Program focuses on ensuring quality patient care throughout the state by offering support and technical assistance to EMS Services, EMS providers, physician medical directors, hospitals, and training agencies. The Regional Specialists are the first point of contact to answer questions.

The State is divided into four regional areas with one Regional Specialist assigned to each area. An updated map with contact information can be found on the EMS Regional Specialist, Programs and Resources webpage on the OEHS website. This webpage and the licensing webpage also contain multiple documents for EMS Agencies.



## CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT

The Nebraska Critical Incident Stress Management Program (CISM) trains volunteer peers to provide crisis support for law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services, corrections, hospitals, emergency management personnel, and dispatchers.

CISM provides education, prevention, stress coping techniques, and helps mitigate the effects of stress and negative emotional reactions that interfere with a person's ability to function due to an event or the repeated exposure to events.

Whenever you have faced a situation that causes unusually strong emotional reactions, it may have the potential to interfere with your ability to function during or after the event. Requests for a debriefing may come from anyone who is in law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical services, corrections, hospitals, emergency management personnel, or dispatch.

To request a debriefing, call (402) 479-4921 and a trained volunteer peer will schedule a time to meet.

The CISM program is always looking for volunteer peers. The completion of a Group Intervention course is required. See the CISM webpage for more information on the OEHS website.



## **OTHER OEHS PROGRAMS**

### **Stroke/STEMI**

The OEHS works closely with partners to establish Stroke and ST Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) systems of care. These partnerships educate patients and medical personnel with the goal of increasing patient survivability when they experience a stroke or STEMI. This system of care allows a patient's entire care team from the 911 call to the definitive care hospital to quickly identify, diagnose, treat, and transport patients. Continuing education on stroke and STEMI topics are offered to EMS providers.

### **Trauma**

The purpose of the Nebraska Statewide Trauma System is to provide a well-coordinated system that provides for appropriate and adequate trauma care. The goals of the trauma system are to provide optimal care for trauma patients, conduct trauma prevention activities, prevent unnecessary death, and disability from trauma and reduce cost. Nebraska hospitals may be designated as a Comprehensive, Advanced, General, or Basic trauma center. Trauma continuing education is often offered through hospitals for EMS providers.

### **EMSC**

The mission of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) is to reduce child and youth mortality and morbidity resulting from severe illness or trauma. EMSC addresses the unique medical needs of children by improving how EMS systems manage the emergency medical needs of children in the areas of prevention, pre-hospital ES care, hospital-based care, rehabilitation, and re-entry of the child into the community. Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Providers (PEPP) courses are offered to EMS providers for continuing education.

### **Data Systems**

The OEHS is responsible for providing the collection of EMS patient care reports. This data is used by EMS services, hospitals, EMS Board, Trauma System, Stroke/STEMI System, EMSC, DHHS, and other stakeholders. The data is utilized to improve patient care and protect public health for all Nebraska residents and visitors. Nebraska is required by Nebraska Rules & Regulations to meet National Emergency Medical Service Information System (NEMSIS) standards. NEMSIS establishes a national standard for the collection, storage, and format of EMS data. Per 172 NAC 12-005, A licensee must complete a patient care record (PCR) for each incident, dry run, refused transportation, and stand-by service. The PCR is to be sent to the Department as a complete record within 72 hours of when a unit is back in service from the incident. The OEHS provides the eNARSIS program as a PCR documentation platform.

## QUICK LINKS

OEHS Homepage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Emergency-Health-Systems.aspx>

Education Webpage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/EHS-EMS-Education.aspx>

EMS Webpage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/EHS-Emergency-Medical-Services.aspx>

CISM Webpage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/EHS-Critical-Incident-Stress-Management.aspx>

Licensing Webpage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/EHS-EMS-Licensing.aspx>

### Quick Links to:

Chapter 5: Mandatory Reporting

Chapter 9: Businesses

Chapter 10: Credentials

Chapter 11: Providers and Instructors

Chapter 12: EMS Services

Chapter 13: EMS Training Agencies

EMS Practice Act: EMS Statute

UCA: Uniform Credentialing Act

