



## **POLICY**

Municipalities throughout Milwaukee County are considering utilizing Registered Nurses (RN) as prehospital EMS providers due to individual interest and staffing needs. This document outlines the process for RN providers to attain full practice status as EMT-B and/or EMT-P within the Milwaukee County EMS system.

## **BACKGROUND**

RNs have not historically been utilized in the prehospital environment. The knowledge base and skills of these providers hold components that align with prehospital medicine, however gaps in training exist. Currently, DHS 110.50 states “registered nurse may take the place of any EMT at any service level provided...trained and competent in all skills, medications and equipment used by that level of EMS provider in the pre-hospital setting and... approved by the EMS service medical director. A physician assistant or RN may not practice at a higher level of care than the level at which the service is licensed.” It further discusses the availability of RN to EMT-B/P transition courses through the certified training centers. An RN who is not licensed as an EMS professional operates under their nursing license and misconduct could affect that license.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Wisconsin currently has a legal avenue for RNs to practice in the prehospital setting, under their own license, with scope approved by the system medical director. Staffing needs within the Milwaukee County EMS system and baseline knowledge and skill set make RNs a reasonable EMS provider option. However, formal education for RNs does not include the complete knowledge base needed to immediately function as a prehospital provider.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

RNs who wish to operate as EMS providers within the Milwaukee County EMS system will be obligated to fulfill one or both of the following requirements based on their desired level of practice. The OEM medical direction team will have subjective oversight of certification for RNs who complete the below processes. For this reason, it is highly advised that the RN consult with Milwaukee County OEM EMS Education Division prior to beginning specific courses to ensure all specifications are met.

- 1) EMT-B:
  - a) Possess a fully functional Wisconsin RN license
  - b) Complete an approved “RN to EMT-B Bridge Course” which includes fulfillment of course specific educational hours and ride time/patient contacts, plus all NREMT-B requirements
  - c) Once the RN receives their EMT-B NREMT certification and Wisconsin EMT-B state license, the RN operates under the Milwaukee County OEM system as an EMT-B licensed through the state of Wisconsin
- 2) EMT-P:
  - a) Possess a fully functional Wisconsin RN license
  - b) Complete an approved “RN to EMT-P Bridge Course” which includes specific education hours and ride time/patient contacts, plus all NREMT-P requirements
  - c) Once the RN receives their NREMT-P certification and EMT-P Wisconsin state license, the RN operates under the Milwaukee County OEM system as an EMT-P licensed through the state of Wisconsin
  - d) Full practice status is granted upon satisfactory completion of the Milwaukee County EMS system EMT-P on boarding process