

## **CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT PROGRAM RULES**

10A NCAC 13P .1401 - .1405

During the previous legislative session, HB 878 was introduced and subsequently ratified which expanded the duties of the Secretary of DHHS to establish a recovery and rehabilitation program for EMS professionals with chemical addiction or abuse problems. In order to begin the process of implementing this program, rules have been drafted and are being proposed to accomplish the following:

- define the component requirements of the treatment program;
- establish criteria for eligibility to enter the program;
- allow for the issuance of an encumbered EMS credential with limited and restricted practice privileges;
- initiate revocation procedures for individuals failing to adhere to the treatment program; and
- provide for the reissuance of the EMS credential upon successful completion of the treatment program.

The rule making authority for these rules will be shared by the Secretary, DHHS and the Medical Care Commission.

Once codified, the OEMS plans on utilizing the list of treatment providers recommended by the NC Board of Nursing (BON) Alternate Program for Chemical Dependency, and initially contracting with the BON to monitor the participants for compliance with the individual's treatment program. Eventually, perhaps over the next two years, the OEMS will bring the monitoring in-house.

As a general note, the cost for the initial assessment, treatment, on-going monitoring, and body fluid screenings will be borne by the EMS professional. The OEMS estimates it will cost the individual between \$4,500 and \$15,000 to complete a three year program. The cost will be dependent upon whether the individual requires inpatient and outpatient care, or if outpatient care alone is needed. This will be determined by an Addictionologist as part of the initial assessment.