

STATE OF NEVADA

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE**

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March 2, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: Stephen Kendall Jones, MD, Chairperson
State Board of Health

From: Richard Whitley, MS, Secretary
State Board of Health

Re: Blood Glucose Testing for Firefighting and EMS Agencies Compliance Agreement

The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (Division) was informed by the firefighting and emergency medical services (EMS) industry that having two different programs within the Division requiring licensure, certification, and annual inspections places an increased burden on these agencies. The goal of this compliance agreement is to allow the Division to reduce the burden placed on firefighting and EMS agencies by having only the Office of Emergency Medical Systems issue licenses and conduct annual inspections required to provide blood glucose testing, and to allow the Division to not collect the associated laboratory licensing fees required in NAC 652.488, until such a time that NAC 652 can be amended to address the concerns of the firefighting and EMS agencies.

Currently, the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance issues laboratory licenses and collects the associated fees for laboratories who conduct waived laboratory tests such as blood glucose testing. The collected fees are to cover the actual costs of the licensure process and the required annual inspections. By the definition of a medical laboratory as stated in NRS 652.060, EMS agencies who conduct blood glucose testing are considered medical laboratories and are required to be licensed as such.

In addition, all firefighting and EMS agencies are required to be licensed, certified, and permitted by the Division through the Office of Emergency Medical Systems. As such, the Office of Emergency Medical Systems is funded to license and inspect these firefighting and EMS agencies. In order to reduce the burden placed on these agencies, the Division will include the required laboratory license as an endorsement on the licenses, permits, or certifications issued by the Office of Emergency Medical Systems who will assure that all laboratory laws are complied with and will inspect to the associated laboratory regulations during annual inspections of these agencies.

As the Office of Emergency Medical Systems is funded to carry out licensure and inspection activities, the fees collected for laboratory licensure under NAC 652.488 are no longer needed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The compliance agreement will allow the Division to not collect the required laboratory licensure fees from firefighting and EMS agencies who provide blood glucose testing while still assuring that all applicable laws and regulations for conducting waived laboratory tests are followed by the firefighting and EMS agencies.

Staff recommend that the Board of Health accept the Compliance Agreement established between the Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Board of Health.

PRESENTER:

Kyle Devine, Chief, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance.