

Bureau of Emergency Medical and Trauma Services

Iowa Administrative Code 641-131 – Change Overview

The following provides an overview of the updates to Iowa Administrative Code 641-131 (Emergency Medical Services – Providers – Initial Certification – Renewal and Reactivation – Authority – Complaints and Investigations). The effective date is November 1, 2026.

As a reminder, Iowa certified EMS clinicians, EMS service programs, and EMS training programs should review the rules in their entirety. IAC 641-131 can be downloaded from the BEMTS website by going to <https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/providers-professionals/emergency-medical-services-trauma/emergency-medical-services>.

If you have any questions, please contact BEMTS at 515-631-0100 or contact your services field coordinator.

Definitions

- 1) “CEH” clarified to state that 50 minutes = 1 CEH and 30 minutes = 0.5 CEH.
- 2) “Core continuing education” sponsor numbers from the Board of Nursing and Board of Medicine were removed.
- 3) “Physician Assistant” or “PA” changed to “Physician Associate”.

Initial Certification (131.2)

- 1) Requirement for two fingerprint cards for background checks removed and simplified to state “a completed background check”.
- 2) Appeals reference chapter updated.

Authority / Scope of Practice (131.4)

- 1) September 1, 2026 Scope of Practice incorporated.
- 2) Waiver reference chapter updated.

Renewal, Reactivation, Continuing Education (131.5)

- 1) Minimum CEH increments defined as 30 minutes = 0.5 CEH with multi-hour courses credited in 0.5 hour increments (e.g., one hour and 30 minutes = one and one-half (1.5) CEHs).
- 2) Time frame to submit documentation/course completion certificates if audited changed to 30 days.

- 3) New CEH values for core topic areas to coincide with NREMT across all levels.
- 4) Addition of pediatric core topic area.

Core Topics	EMR/FR	EMT/EMT-D	AEMT	PM
Airway, Respirations, Ventilations	1.5	4	5	6
Cardiology	2	5	6	7
Trauma	1	3	4	5
Medical	2.5	6	7	8
Operations	1	2	3	4
Pediatric	1	2	3	4
Totals	9	22	28	34

- 5) Reactivation of an inactive certification will only be allowed for up to 24 months. If certification has been inactive for greater than 24 months, the individual will have to complete the appropriate NREMT re-entry pathway for the level of clinician they want to reactivate. Upon successful completion of the NREMT re-entry pathway, the individual can apply to the State for certification.
- 6) Return payment fee increased to \$40.

Discipline (131.6), Certification denial (131.7), and Complaints, investigations and appeals (131.9)

- 1) Waiver and appeal reference chapter updated.