

## Substance Abuse Policy: Designated Physician

Supersedes: 7-11-16

Effective: 3-19-19

Department members undergoing prescribed medical treatment with any drug that may affect their ability to perform their duties as an EMT must report this information to the licensed physician designated by the Department.

Attention: Medical Director of Working Well Clinic at BMC  
Department of Occupational & Environmental Medicine  
Doctor's Office Building  
720 Harrison Avenue, Suite 703  
Boston, MA 02118-2393  
Phone: 617-638-8400 (Mon-Friday 07:30-16:00)  
Email: Workingwellclinic@bmc.org

Information may be sent in one of two ways: it can be delivered personally, or by electronic mail with a scanned copy of the prescription or photo attachment. Be sure to include your contact information, job title (EMT, LT, Captain, etc.), and assignment (Dispatch Operations, Unit, etc.) in the notification. The use of a fax is not an acceptable means of disclosure. Disclosure must be made to the Medical Director of the BMC Working Well Clinic (or his/her designee) . There is no obligation on your part to share your confidential medical information with your Supervisor, Shift Commander, or Professional Standards.

At our request, the Department of Occupational & Environmental Medicine has identified the following categories of prescription drugs that may affect a staff member's ability to perform their duties. If you have been prescribed any of the categories of drugs listed below, you must report that fact to the physician designated by the Department immediately when prescribed. The list below is meant to be illustrative and is not an exhaustive list of prescription drugs that may affect performance of duties or that are subject to the reporting requirements.

- Opioid based pain medication (examples include oxycodone, morphine, and methadone)
- Potentially sedating pain medications, including opioid based medications mixed with acetaminophen and tramadol.
- Sedative medications (examples include lorazepam, alprazolam, diazepam).
- Antipsychotic medications (examples include haldoperidol and risperidone)
- Muscle relaxants (example includes flexeril)

Failure to report use of prescription drugs as required can place the Department, its staff, and our patients at risk and it is specifically listed as prohibited conduct in the Boston EMS Substance Abuse policy. If you have any questions about Department

policy or your reporting obligations, please contact the Professional Standards Division (617-343-1144). If you are unsure of whether a prescription drug you are using may affect your ability to perform your duties as an EMT, please contact the Working Well Clinic Medical Director at 617-638-8400 (Monday-Friday 07:30-16:00).