

SJR5 Study: Emergency Medical Services Confidentiality for medical run review

Background

At the March CFHHS meeting, Debbie Ogden from the Missoula Area EMS Council, asked the committee to consider a proposal that would allow local EMS councils confidentiality for emergency medical call for service run reviews as they relate to quality assessment and peer review. She stated that the council cannot currently perform quality assurance reviews (needed for training, education, and the provision of better services) without the proceedings and reports being "public." Physicians that work with the EMS council for review purposes have declined further involvement with the EMS council due to this lack of confidentiality for review of medical run reviews. This is severely hampering the EMS council's desire to enhance quality EMS field care for medical patients.

LCS5-6: Confidentiality for Medical Run Review

The legislation drafted for committee consideration would:

- Allow for confidential discussion and review of medical run review data by local EMS councils for quality assessment purposes.
- Authorize the Department of Public Health and Human Services to request local EMS council medical run reviews for purposes of conducting statewide medical run reviews
- Provide that EMS council meetings may be closed for peer review or quality improvement activities.
- Specify that EMS council review and discussion of quality improvement data related to medical run reviews, as well as reports generated from that data, are confidential and not discoverable in a civil action.