

### *Athlete Medical Amnesty Motion*

**Purpose:** To gain medical amnesty for student athletes at Colby. Currently, all CER calls are reported to individual coaches via the Dean of Restorative Practice. Coaches reserve the right to suspend athletes from games and practices or expel them from teams, on an individual basis. This motion will act as an approval of a CER/SAAC structure to address this issue, creating a unified student approach to bring to the Deans.

**The What:** CER/SAAC tiered proposal for athletics regarding athlete amnesty after CER calls.

**The How:** After approval of the CER/SAAC proposal, Jon-Mark Olivier will present the proposal to Barbara Moore and other Deans at their weekly meeting.

**Strengths and Importance:** Medical amnesty is essential. In regular EMS/healthcare systems, all calls would be covered by HIPAA and thus unreportable to administration or coaches. Since Colby is a college setting, reporting is under the jurisdiction of the college. All colleges have individual approaches. CER has been in contact with Tufts, Bates, Bowdoin, UMaine, Amherst, and James Madison to compare policies. CER is also in direct contact with Maine EMS Emergency Medicine Physician Dr. Tim Pieh, and Maine Medical association CEO Andrew McLean.

**Possible Risk Areas:** The athletics department has not been extremely receptive to this proposal.

#### **Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:**

What conversations has CER had with athletics?

- CER has met with the athletic trainers and Associate AD, Casie Runksmeier.

Contact Information for questioning, clarification, or pre-meeting critiques:

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## CER Proposal

### Document Summary:

A three tier proposal is presented below with top-level goals of reducing barriers to medical care among student athletes on Colby's campus. In collaboration with Colby's Student Athletic Advisory Board and Student Government Association, Colby Emergency Response would like to present a formal amnesty pitch to the school's Dean of the College and Athletic Director to address response to alcohol and drug-use calls on campus and the precedent of notification to athletic coaches not involved in the direct medical care of the student athlete.

### Frequently Used Terms:

**BLS:** Basic Life Support. CER can only conduct medical refusals at the **BLS level** per Maine EMS guidelines. CER refusals are actually **stricter** than those established by Maine EMS to take extra precaution and ensure that only patients deemed calm, cooperative, reliable reporters who can clearly articulate the dangers of refusing additional medical evaluation are allowed to be "signed-off". [Our refusal guidelines](#) are vetted and frequently reviewed by the school's medical director and Kennebec Valley's Regional EMS Director and Emergency Medicine Physician, Dr. Tim Pieh.

**ALS:** Advanced Life Support. Advanced-EMTs and Paramedics are considered ALS providers and are the only individuals allowed to conduct ALS-level refusals. While the fundamental criteria of the refusal are the same as a BLS level, ALS level providers are allowed to conduct refusals in "higher acuity" settings upon properly determining, explaining, and ensuring that the patient themselves can articulate the dangers of not receiving higher care. ALS providers receive extensive training in identifying the nuances as to when and when not a patient is fit for medical refusal. Upon determining if the patient is fit and able to refuse medical care, they also may contact Online Medical Control to be connected with the **local ER physician** to confirm that the patient is fit to refuse care. For all ALS refusals involving alcohol intoxication where a patient may be deemed a non-reliable reporter, **Online Medical Control must be contacted prior to refusal being conducted.**

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### 1. First Tier Proposal

*Currently there is no distinction between in-season vs. off-season athlete evaluation.*

All individuals, regardless of class year or transport status, are entitled to two CER evaluations of alcohol and/or drug use without notification of athletic coaches. Transport status may include CER refusal, ambulance refusal, security escort, and ambulance transport. A third CER evaluation throughout the student's enrollment at the college pertaining to alcohol or drug use will warrant athletic director notification who will then be in charge of communicating with the athletic coaches to develop a plan.

After any CER call, student athletes may elect to self-report the nature of the CER evaluation to athletic trainers prompting a discussion of the individual needs of the students. The athletic trainer may then

communicate these individual needs to the athletic coach (i.e. exemption from participating in practice or game) without detailing the nature of the CER call or potential alcohol or drug substances involved to the athletic coach.

### **Principle Reasoning Behind Amnesty Policy:**

- While athletic coaches will not be notified during the first two occurrences in the first-tier proposal, this does not imply that the college is not actively seeking out measures to better support the student and identify potential substance use disorders (e.g. with the school's Dean of Student Success, Kay Shirley and Jon Mark)
- Individuals not involved in the direct medical care of the student athlete should not be privy to their medical history or interaction with EMS. Fear of punitive action in the form of being removed from games, facing suspension, etc. goes against the fundamental values of the school and instead discourages students to speak up/ seek out resources when they are concerned for the wellbeing of themselves or others.

### **2. Second Tier Proposal \*Based on Bates College Policy**

All athletic students are entitled to **one** CER evaluation of alcohol and/or drug use, regardless of class year or transport decision, without any athletic coach notification of assessment. Transport status may include CER refusal, ambulance refusal, security escort, and ambulance transport. In the event that CER responds to the same athletic student for a second time in the student's anticipated four years at the college, the transport decision will impact athletic director/ coach notification.

1. In the event that a CER, BLS-level refusal or WFD/Delta ALS-level refusal is conducted after evaluation for alcohol and/or drug use, no notification will be provided to coaches.
2. In the event that a WFD or Delta ALS-level refusal is conducted *without the intention* of the patient receiving higher medical evaluation at the hospital (i.e. via security escort), no athletic coach notification will be provided.
3. In the event that a WFD or Delta ALS level refusal is conducted *with the intention* of the patient receiving higher medical evaluation at the hospital (i.e. via security escort), then notification of athletic coaches may be warranted.
4. Finally, in the event that a WFD or Delta transport is conducted, athletic coach notification may be warranted.

In the event that CER responds to the same athletic student for a third (+) time in the student's anticipated four years at the college, notification of EMS evaluation may be provided to the athletic coaches.

The same principles of athletic trainer notification apply. Please refer to the first-tier proposal for more information.

### **3. Third Tier Proposal\***

All upperclassmen student-athletes (sophomore, junior, and senior) are entitled to one CER evaluation without athletic coach notification *if* a CER BLS level or WFD ALS refusal is conducted. In addition, **all first year** student athletes are entitled to one CER evaluation without athletic coach notification, *regardless of transport decision* (ie. CER refusal, ambulance refusal, security escort or ambulance transport).

In the event that CER responds to an upperclassmen student athlete and the student is transported via security vehicle or ambulance to the hospital, athletic coach notification may be warranted. In the event that CER responds to a first-year student athlete *for a second time during the student's first year at the college*, athletic coach notification may be warranted (regardless of transport decision).

The same principles of athletic trainer notification apply. Please refer to the first-tier proposal for more information.

\*These policies are cumulative. E.g. In the event that CER responds the first time to a freshman (transport to hospital) and second time to the same student as a junior (CER refusal), the student is *still entitled to evaluation without* athletic coach notification if a BLS or ALS level refusal is conducted.