SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Communications | EMS/Trauma | Health Information Technology
Public Health Preparedness & Response | Rural Health

May 13, 2026

West McPherson EMS, Inc (471)

Dear Brian and Cory,

In accordance with South Dakota Codified Law Chapter 34-11-2 (4), licensed ambulance services are required to have a medical director unless a hardship exemption has been granted.

The department shall approve a hardship exemption if an ambulance service, per Administrative Rule 44:05:07:02, can:

1. Demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that no physician who is within a fifty-mile radius of the ambulance service coverage area and credentialed to work at the primary receiving facility for the ambulance service is available and willing to serve as the medical director of the ambulance service for a fee that is less than five percent of the ambulance service's annual budget; and
2. Provides documentation that the program director selected has:
    a. A minimum of two years of clinical experience as a physician assistant or nurse practitioner;
    b. Agreed, in writing, to be responsible for the supervision and healthcare direction of the ambulance service; and
    c. Attested to having reviewed and to understanding the *Introduction to Rural EMS Healthcare Direction in South Dakota* document on the department website.

Our office received your request for a hardship exemption renewal on May 5, 2026. Upon review we determined you have met the requirements for a hardship exemption. Cory Heiser - PA will be noted as your program director on record for a period of one year from your previous expiration date.

Your MD Hardship Exemption expiration date is June 3, 2027.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at marty.link@state.sd.us.

Thanks,

Marty Link
Deputy Division Director
SD Department of Health