



## **Memorandum**

TO: Troy Bredenkamp, NREA Managers

FROM: Dave Jarecke

DATE: July 15, 2015

RE: CDL Med Cards for Cooperatives

This memo serves to provide guidance to those individuals who must carry a medical card while on-duty. It is important to note that Coop employees operating solely in intrastate commerce, “Category C,” are not required to maintain a medical certification or medical card with the Nebraska DMV. Rather, those “Category C” drivers must carry their medical card with them while on duty. Coop employees operating in interstate commerce, “Category A,” will need to maintain a copy of their medical card with the Nebraska DMV.

To obtain the medical card, one must be examined by a physician on the Department of Transportation’s national registry. That registry is available at <https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/NRPublicUI/home.seam>. The issue some may face is there are only twenty six clinics in the State of Nebraska on the national registry. However, there are many more certified practitioners. For instance, it appears there are no providers in the western panhandle. However, a search of the practitioners and not just the clinics reveals there are multiple certified providers. To find a certified medical provider, be sure to search both the clinics and locality providers to obtain accurate results.

There is a process in which medical providers may register to become certified and part of the national registry. The registered medical provider must examine for certain physical qualifications found at §391.43. These physical qualifications speak to the ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle. The head/eyes, ears, throat, heart, blood pressure, lungs, abdomen, genital-urinary, neurological, spine and extremities are all subject to testing. Each of the employees required to have a med card will need to be examined by one of these certified medical providers found on the national registry using the above link and directions.

If the medical examiner believes the driver is able to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle, the examiner will sign and date a medicate certificate. This certificate is valid for a period of two years. The certificate can be printed on cardstock and resized. Another option

would be to purchase medical cards sold by third party suppliers and have the medical examiner sign and date.

Once the medical certificate has been obtained, it is valid for a period of two years. So long as drivers are Category "C" –intrastate only drivers, they will not need to provide a copy to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Instead, the requirement is to physically carry the card while on duty.

There has been discussion about moving to an electronic medical card. Conversations with Department of Motor Vehicle staff indicates this is not an option nor are there immediate plans for any such program here in Nebraska. This situation will be monitored for future changes.