Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties

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DATE: April 11, 2011

TO: ICEMA Certified EMTs
ALS, BLS, EMS Aircraft Provider Chief's, CEO's and EMS/Paramedic Coordinators
EMS Training Programs and Continuing Education Providers

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi, MD, ICEMA Medical Director
Virginia Hastings, ICEMA Executive Director

SUBJECT: **CHANGES TO ICEMA PROTOCOL REFERENCE #3030 - EMT CONTINUATION EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Effective March 15, 2011, changes were made to the ICEMA continuing education requirements for recertification. The most significant change includes:

Continuing Education

1(i) Sixteen (16) hours of required Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) must come from courses involving medical management of patients. Non-medical EMS system courses (e.g. ICS, HazMat FRO, Vehicle Extrication, Rope Rescue, etc) will be limited to eight (8) hours maximum per certification cycle.

Please ensure your department personnel are aware of this change to avoid lapses in certification. Individuals expiring prior to September 15, 2011, will be exempt from the new requirement of sixteen (16) hours of continuing education specifically related to the medical management of patients in order to transition to the new educational standard.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Denice Wicker-Stiles at (909) 388-5831 or email at dwicker-stiles@cao.sbcounty.gov.

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EMT CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

PURPOSE

To define requirements for continuing education for certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) in the Counties of San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono.

AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 11 EMS Continuing Education

POLICY

To maintain certification, an EMT shall:

1. Obtain at least twenty-four hours (24) continuing education hours (CEH) from an approved continuing education provider ***or***

2. Complete a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course meeting National Standard Curriculum from an approved EMT training program.

3. Complete a verification of skills competency. (EMSA Form SCV)

DEFINITIONS

1. Continuing education (CE) is a course, class, activity or experience designed to be educational in nature, with learning objectives and performance evaluations for the purpose of providing EMS personnel with reinforcement of basic EMS training as well as the knowledge to enhance individual and system proficiency in the practice of prehospital emergency medical care.

2. A continuing education hour (CEH) consists of a minimum of fifty (50) minutes of approved classroom or skills laboratory activity. CE courses or activities shall not be approved for less than one (1) hour of credit. For courses greater than one CEH, credit may be granted in no less than half hour increments.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

1. Continuing education hours may be earned in the following manner:

   a. Any of the topics contained in the respective National Standard Curricula for training EMS personnel.

   b. Each hour of structural clinical or field experience when monitored by a preceptor assigned by an EMS training program, EMS service provider, hospital or alternate base station approved according to this division.

   c. Each hour of media based/serial production CE (e.g. films, videos, audiotape programs, magazine articles offered for CE credit, home study, computer simulations or interactive computer modules) A maximum of twelve (12) CE hours may be obtained in a twenty-four (24) hour period.

   d. Classroom, didactic and/or skills laboratory with direct instructor interaction

   e. Organized field care audits of patient care records

   f. Advanced topics in subject matter outside the scope of practice of the certified or licensed EMS personnel but directly relevant to emergency medical care

   g. Courses offered by accredited universities and colleges, including junior and community colleges. Acceptable courses include physical, social or behavioral sciences (i.e. anatomy, physiology, sociology, psychology) Credit shall be given on the following basis:

      1) One academic quarter unit shall equal ten (10) CE hours

      2) One academic semester unit shall equal fifteen (15) CE hours

   h. Structured clinical experience, with instructional objectives, to review or expand the clinical expertise of the individual;

   i. Sixteen (16) hours of required CEHs must come from courses involving medical management of patients. Non-medical EMS system courses (e.g. ICS, HazMat FRO, Vehicle Extrication, Rope Rescue, etc) will be limited to eight (8) hours maximum per certification cycle.

   j. Precepting EMS students or EMS personnel as a hospital clinical preceptor, as assigned by the EMS training program, EMS service provider, hospital or base hospital. In order to receive CEHs for precepting, all the requirements

for a course including objectives and student evaluations of the preceptors. CEHs for precepting are limited to a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of required continuing education hours per licensure/certification cycle for all EMS personnel.

k. At least fifty percent (50%) of the required CE hours must be in an instructor-based format, where an instructor is readily available to the student to answer questions, provide feedback, (e.g., on-line CE course where an instructor is available to the student). The CE provider approving authority shall determine whether a CE course, class or activity is instructor based.

l. An instructor for a CE course, class or activity will earn credit equal to the same number of CEHs applied to the course, class or activity. This shall be documented on a separate roster, clearly labeled "Instructor" and include the course name. Credit will be given, one time only, for each specific course, during a certification/licensure cycle.

m. Credit may be given for taking the same CE course, class or activity no more than two (2) times during a single certification cycle.

n. At the time of the educational event, the student must sign and provide certification/licensure number on the Continuing Education Course Roster. Failure to do so will result in loss of CE credit.

o. An individual shall provide proof of approved continuing education hours obtained to ICEMA upon request and at the time of application.

p. An individual who is currently licensed in California as a Paramedic or certified as an EMT-II or who has been certified within six (6) months of the date of application may be given credit for continuing education hours earned as a Paramedic or A-EMT to satisfy the continuing education requirement for EMT recertification.

q. Continuing education may be obtained at any time throughout the current certification period.