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New Haven Sponsor Hospital Program Paramedic Continuing Medical Education Policy and Procedure April 2008-March 2010

Continuing medical education is a crucial part of the professional development and continued competency of any health care professional. NHSHP maintains this policy and procedure as part of a comprehensive continuous quality improvement program.

The National Registry of EMT's two year CME format is being utilized by NHSHP, to ensure that those paramedics who hold a NREMT certification can maintain it with ease, and to encourage non-registered paramedics to pursue registration. The two year cycle will include any CME hours accrued from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2010 in order to align with the standard cycle set forth by the NREMT.

Requirements:

1. Attendance at a minimum of 72 hours of CME is required during this 2008-2010 CME cycle. Content must be distributed among the topic areas outlined in the NREMT Paramedic Reregistration Requirements (www.nremt.org/downloads/EMT.Paramedic.pdf):

a. **48 hours** of Core Content is required in the areas outlined below:

Airway, Breathing, Cardiology: 16 hrs

Medical Emergencies: 8 hrs

Trauma: 6 hrs

Obstetrics and Pediatrics: 16 hrs

Operational Tasks: 2 hr

Total Core Content: 48 hrs

b. An additional **24 hours** of EMS-related elective continuing education is required.

- As per Section II of the NREMT document, certification courses can be counted, up to the maximum number of hours listed in the NREMT-P standard (16 hrs each for PHTLS, BTLS, PALS, ACLS, AMLS, and PEPP). However, hours obtained at courses with a two-year cycle (e.g. PALS) may only be claimed for NHSHP CME credit once per two year cycle.
- Up to twelve hours may also be claimed for certain non-certification training: dispatch training, emergency driving, and teaching CPR.
- A maximum of twelve elective hours (not core content hours) may be obtained through CECBEMS-approved journal articles, video tapes, or other multimedia presentations each two year cycle. Proper documentation is required for all of the above.
- A maximum of twelve elective hours may be awarded each 2 year cycle to Paramedic Field Instructors who precept paramedic students and paramedics new to our system. This credit shall be awarded at the discretion of the Education



Medical Director, based on documentation of precepting time. PFI's are reminded that NREMT explicitly does not permit the use of precepting hours for meeting their re-registration requirements.

- No more than 50% of the CME in any category may be acquired by teaching.

2. Completion of a four-hour practical skills workshop is required annually. The practical skills workshop will include a competency based assessment of comprehensive pre-hospital patient care, in a scenario format, using the NREMT skill sheets as the assessment tool. This assessment must be successfully passed annually. Paramedics completing the practical skills workshop elements at NREMT paramedic refresher courses or at other sponsor hospital programs will fulfill this requirement, as long as proper documentation is provided to the NHSHP office. Since the primary focus of the workshop is on the ABC's, paramedics may choose to "count" these four hours as Airway/Breathing/Cardiology core content hours, or as elective hours, when submitting the annual CME log (item 6 below).

3. Successful completion (defined as a grade of 70% or greater) of a written protocol test is required each calendar year. This test will be offered at each practical skills workshop as well as being accessible through the NHSHP office.

- Paramedics who do not pass the exam on the first attempt will be allowed to review their exam for deficiencies and then retake another exam at a date no sooner than 1 week from the date of review.
- Paramedics who do not pass the exam on the second attempt will be required to review their exam to establish the areas in need of improvement, attend a protocol remediation session, and retake another exam for a third attempt.
- Paramedics who do not pass the third attempt will have their medical authorization to practice as a paramedic under the auspices of NHSHP temporarily suspended. A second protocol remediation session will be required followed by a final attempt to pass the exam.
- If the fourth exam attempt is passed, unrestricted medical authorization will be reinstated. If the exam is not passed, medical authorization will be permanently withdrawn at which time the paramedic may reapply at a date not less than 6 months from the time of the 4th attempt.
- Paramedics that have either not taken the protocol exam or have not passed the exam by January 1st on the following calendar year will have their medical authorization to practice as an independent paramedic under the auspices of NHSHP immediately suspended as of 0800 hrs on January 1st until such time as the deficiency is rectified.

4. Certification in CPR, ACLS, PALS, and PEPP (ALS) are required continuously, and each paramedic is responsible for providing appropriate documentation to NHSHP prior to the expiration date of their respective previous card. Upon discovery by NHSHP of any expired certification, notification of the deficiency will be sent to the individual and to the appropriate service chief with a period of 72 hours given to produce verification of currency or face immediate loss of medical authorization. It is also required that all Paramedics have a current copy of all certification cards (or verification of currency) and CT state Paramedic license on their person at all times while working as a paramedic under the medical authorization of NHSHP. All NREMT paramedics must submit a copy of their current NREMT card no later than June 1st (in the re-registration year) in order to maintain medical authorization.

5. Attendance at mandatory "inservice" sessions is required, e.g. for new protocols or equipment. Whether or not these sessions constitute credit toward the 72 hours of CME required

per two year cycle will be at the discretion of the MIC Medical Director or the Education Medical Director, depending on clinical content. Any such mandatory session will be offered at least twice at the NHSHP training center, and in most cases departments can make arrangements for presentation on-site.

6. Paramedics are strongly encouraged to provide documentation of all off-site CME to the NHSHP office in a timely manner, so these hours may be logged in the NHSHP CME database. On or about 15 March 2009 and 15 March 2010, the NHSHP office will mail to each currently authorized paramedic a print-out of that paramedic's CME hours as documented in the NHSHP database. **No later than 12:00 hrs EST on March 1, 2010, each NHSHP medically authorized paramedic must submit to the NHSHP office a CME log for this two year cycle**, indicating how the various requirements were met by applying documented CME hours to the various topic requirements. Any hours claimed that were not shown on the mailed print-out require separate documentation. Each paramedic must also ensure that copies of current CPR, ACLS, PALS, and PEPP cards, and current state paramedic license, are on file at NHSHP as of this same date and time. Medical authorization will be terminated for any paramedic failing to meet the above requirements. In order to regain medical authorization through NHSHP, the paramedic must re-apply and follow the process outlined in the NHSHP Medical Authorization Policy to include ALL aspects of the process including precepting and a final medical clearance by the NHSHP Operations Staff.

Note: Paramedics holding current NREMT status need to submit all documentation as noted above due to some recent changes in the NREMT re-registration options.

7. All NREMT-Ps must continue to maintain National Registry status in order to maintain medical authorization through NHSHP.

8. Any questions should be directed to the NHSHP office (203-562-3320) well in advance of any deadlines.

CME SCHEDULE:

The NHSHP will continue to offer 24 hour CME programs as the primary source of continuing education. These programs are designed for versatility and flexibility by being broken into Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3, with the same categorical content for each day remaining the same throughout the cycle. Therefore, it will be necessary to attend each day number (Day 1, Day 2, Day 3) twice (48hrs), along with CPR re-cert (4hrs), ACLS re-cert (8hrs), PALS re-cert (8hrs), and PEPP re-cert (8hrs), in order to complete all of the core and elective CME requirements for the two year cycle. NHSHP will offer three of these programs at NHSHP each year as per the attached 2008 schedule. AMR New Haven will also be offering the same program three times per year, which is open (at no cost) to all paramedics with medical authorization through NHSHP.

Note: The CME programs offered through NHSHP will be limited to 30 participants based on a first come first serve basis. It is therefore recommended that participants call and register early to avoid the inconvenience of not being able to attend the sessions most accommodating to their schedule and preferences.