

2012 Continuing Education Policy

PURPOSE

This policy establishes the standards for continuing education for EMS personnel sponsored by the Stamford Hospital EMS Sponsor Hospital Program (SSHP).

REQUIREMENTS

Paramedic	Advanced EMT	EMT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attend all mandatory sessions. Complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) credit hours of core CME. Accrue a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours of elective CME. Maintain a current BLS for Healthcare Providers completion card. Maintain a current Advanced Cardiac Life Support completion card. Maintain a current Pediatric Advanced Life Support completion card. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attend all mandatory sessions. Complete a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours of core CME. Maintain a current BLS for Healthcare Providers completion card. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attend all mandatory sessions. Maintain a current BLS for Healthcare Providers completion card.

**Graduate paramedics with limited authorization will be required to accrue core and elective credit hours upon their entry into the mentoring process.*

EMS providers who maintain primary authorization at another approved sponsor hospital program (or equivalent oversight agency) must:

- Attend all SSHP mandatory sessions
- Provide annual verification of continued sponsorship in good standing
- Maintain valid American Heart Association completion cards as defined above

Core Continuing Education

Core content areas are identified in the 2010 National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards. To maintain authorization, paramedic providers must accrue the minimum annual requirement of twenty-four (24) core credit hours. Advanced EMTs must obtain twelve (12) core credit hours annually. Accrued hours shall represent a fair sampling of the content areas.

Sponsored agencies conducting in-house training must present core content identified in the 2010 National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards.

Internet-Based Distributed Learning (IBDL)

IBDL allows EMS providers to complete training and obtain information in the convenience of their station or home, completing continuing education during times that fit into their schedule.

IBDL can be used for cognitive and affective review in the core topic areas. Any distributive offering must be approved by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS).

Paramedic Program Students

Advanced EMTs enrolled and active in a paramedic course will be exempt from accruing core hours. Students must submit a course syllabus and dated schedule as well as verification of enrollment from the course coordinator.

Outside Educational Offerings

Paramedics and Advanced EMTs may attend a core topic offered at another recognized EMS training location. Documentation of attendance at external CME offerings will not be accepted unless verification is submitted, signed and verified.

State Approved Refresher Programs

ALS level providers completing a state approved, structured refresher program will be awarded credit hours based on the length of the program completed. Paramedic refresher programs must meet or exceed the requirements of this policy. To obtain credit, providers must follow the procedure for obtaining pre-approval and verification of attendance as previously outlined. Note well that many refresher programs do not include a hands-on skills component, which is required for SSHP authorization renewal.

Prehospital Care QA Conference – Call Review / Roundtable

SSHP will conduct scheduled QA Conferences. **Paramedics must attend a minimum of three conferences per calendar year.** Sessions will be approved for credit hours, applied towards core or elective content areas.

EMS Journal Club – Literature Review

SSHP will conduct scheduled prehospital-relevant literature reviews. Participation in Journal Club will earn one credit hour per hour of discussion, applied towards core or elective content areas.

Stamford Hospital Trauma Conference

The monthly multidisciplinary trauma conference at The Stamford Hospital Brace Auditorium will be approved for credit hours, applied towards core or elective content areas. SSHP will make every effort to provide advanced notice to EMS personnel who have cases being presented.

Elective Continuing Education

Any EMS-related subject not directly covered in the 2010 National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards can be accepted as elective continuing education. These topics may be presented through workshops, seminars, didactic sessions, clinical rotations or other approved in-service training. Extra core credit hours can also be applied to elective requirements.

Paramedics must obtain a minimum twelve (12) elective hours annually. Proof of completion indicating the education completed, dates of completion and validating signatures are required for full credit. Documentation may be in the format of an official letter or valid completion card signed by the instructor or medical director.

Clinical Practicum in Emergency Care

Clinical rotations in one of the specialty units of The Stamford Hospital are eligible for continuing education credit. All rotations must be arranged in advance. One hour per clinical hour will be awarded.

EMS Instruction

One credit hour per hour of lecture or psychomotor skill instruction of a state or SSHP-approved course will be awarded for elective CME credit.

Remediation Projects

ALS providers who are assigned research papers or projects as a form of remediation will receive appropriate credit hours for such work. The EMS Coordinator will determine the credit to be awarded after discussion with the Sponsor Hospital Medical Director. A maximum of three (3) credit hours can be earned within the calendar year.

SSHP will not accept the following as elective continuing education:

- Preceptor hours
- Volunteer time
- Performance of duty
- First responder courses
- Serving as skills examiner
- Instructor courses
- First Aid/CPR
- Management/leadership course

MANDATORY SESSIONS

Sponsored personnel are required to attend mandatory sessions, scheduled as needed to orient providers on new or revised protocols and policies. Failure to attend may result in the immediate suspension of medical control authorization. Mandatory sessions can be credited towards elective CME hours unless specific to a core topic area. All personnel who fail to attend a mandatory session must contact the EMS Coordinator immediately to arrange an alternate assignment if available.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES

SSHP requires maintenance of valid, current cards confirming completion of the following American Heart Association courses:

- BLS for Healthcare Providers – Required for all SSHP-sponsored EMS personnel.
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support – Required for SSHP-sponsored paramedics.
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support – Required for SSHP-sponsored paramedics.

VERIFICATION

Verification of annual CME will occur every December. Each provider is required to keep a log of all training received throughout the calendar year. The individual provider is responsible for verifying all information.

CANCELLATIONS/POSTPONEMENTS

Every attempt will be made to adhere to the posted schedule. However, should a CME session require a change of time and/or date, timely notices will be posted.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Attendance must be taken at each session. You **MUST** sign the attendance sheet to gain proper credit.

SESSION ETIQUETTE

Providers are to arrive on time so that the presenter may start the CME session according to schedule. Personnel will remain the entire session. All attendees will demonstrate respect for the instructor and fellow participants during the CME session. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during the CME session, unless on-duty. Providers are expected to help maintain the appearance of the classroom.

CONTINUING EDUCATION ETHICAL STANDARDS

Falsification of continuing medical education documentation or attendance sign-in sheets will result in the permanent removal of medical authorization. Failure to maintain required CME hours and provide documentation of current licensing and certification will result in progressive discipline as well as the withdrawal of ALS authorization by the Stamford Sponsor Hospital Program Medical Director.

2012 EDUCATION CALENDAR

Date	Times	Title	Location
Tue Jan 24, 2012 <i>Mandatory for Medics</i>	8:00am - 10:00am	Protocol Update	Stamford EMS HQ
Thu Feb 2, 2012	8:30am – 9:30am	Call Review	TSH Library Conference Room
Wed Feb 8, 2012 <i>Mandatory for Medics</i>	8:00am - 10:00am	Protocol Update	Stamford EMS HQ
Wed Mar 21, 2012	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Journal Club	Darien EMS/Post 53
Thu Apr 5, 2012	8:00am – 9:00am	Call Review	TSH Library Conference Room
Wed May 16, 2012	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Journal Club	Darien EMS/Post 53
Thu Jun 7, 2012	8:00am – 9:00am	Call Review	TSH Library Conference Room
Wed Jul 18, 2012	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Journal Club	Darien EMS/Post 53
Thu Aug 2, 2012	8:00am – 9:00am	Call Review	TSH Library Conference Room
Wed Sep 19, 2012	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Journal Club	Darien EMS/Post 53
Thu Oct 4, 2012	8:00am – 4:00pm	Call Review	TSH Library Conference Room
Thu Dec 6, 2012	8:00am – 9:00am	Call Review	TSH Library Conference Room

NOTES