

November 2013

To: Colorado EMS Certificate Holders and Colorado –recognized EMS Education Centers/Groups

Ref: **Colorado Continuing Education and Recertification Overview**

The EMTS Section Professional Standards Program has created the following document to assist with the process of evaluating and/or approving continuing education (CE) in order to meet the recertification requirements at the Colorado state level.

Below you will find suggestions regarding EMS CE content as it might be included under the listed categories. The topics listed are examples of common CE offerings and are not meant to be exclusive, rather this information should be used to determine and select the appropriate category.

Important tips as you review your CE:

1. CPR is to be counted one time only, even though you may have needed to take the course multiple times during your certification cycle. CPR is always counted as an elective for Colorado recertification. The same conditions apply to ACLS courses.
 2. The EMTS office **DOES NOT** accept on-line only ACLS or CPR cards. In order for an ACLS or CPR card to be accepted at the time of renewal in Colorado, the course attended **MUST** have had a live skills competency component. For a list of Colorado-recognized CPR and ACLS programs, visit our website at www.coems.info
 3. Many classes can count toward more than one category. For example: A two hour Pediatric Trauma session may be applied to **EITHER** the pediatric category for two hours **OR** the trauma category for two hours. It may not be used to apply two hours to Pediatrics **AND** two hours to the trauma category. Sessions may also be split between two categories. For example: one hour in the pediatric category and one hour in the trauma category.
 4. If you attend multiple sessions of the same course with the same content, the course hours can only be used **ONCE** for CE credit; any additional hours cannot be used for additional CE credit.
 5. Education centers or groups may not change the CE hours designated by another education center or group. For example; if an EMS provider brings you a CE certificate for a class that is designated by another program as Medical CE hours, those hours cannot be changed to fulfill the provider's need for trauma hours. The initial center or group has direct knowledge of content and objectives of the course, and this should be honored by other education centers or groups.
 6. College courses may be used for EMS CE credit, as long as the education program approving it reviews the content and determines it to be applicable to EMS prehospital practice. Examples of appropriate courses include (but are not limited to) Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, Sociology and Statistics. 1 college credit = 8 CE hours.
 7. **With the exception of CPR and ACLS**, 100% of a your CE hours towards Colorado recertification may come from non-distributive sources (i.e. any class without a "live" instructor such as on-line classes, videos of classes, magazine articles, etc.). It is your responsibility to make sure these courses are **pre-approved** by a Colorado-recognized education center or group. If it is not pre-approved, an education center or group is under no obligation to accept coursework completed on-line, out of state or at non-recognized training sites.
 8. Hour-for-hour credit may be awarded for courses attended such as ATLS, AMLS, EPC or ENPC, PEPP, PALS, ITLS or PHTLS, TEMS, etc. The same is true if you teach EMS –related courses.
 9. ANY EMS-related CE coursework above and beyond the minimum requirements for each of the main categories may be applied to the Elective category.
- » Information provided here is specific to Colorado-state provider recertification requirements. For information regarding National Registry recertification requirements, visit their website at www.nremt.org

COLORADO EMS PROVIDER RECERTIFICATION
Refresher and/or Continuing Education Requirements

Colorado	
Certification is valid for 3 years	
Category	Hours
EMT	
Advanced EMT	
Preparatory	1
OB/GYN	2
Pediatrics	2
Trauma	6
Pt. Assessment	5
Airway	3
Medical/Behavioral	6
Elective	11
Minimum 36 hours required for renewal	
EMT Intermediate/ Paramedic	
Airway Breathing Cardiology	8
Medical	4
Trauma	3
OB/GYN	4
Pediatrics	4
Operations	2
Elective	25
Minimum 50 hours required for renewal	

National Registry			
Registration is valid for 2 years			
Category	Hours	Category	Hours
EMT		Paramedic	
Preparatory	1	Airway Breathing Cardiology	16
OB/GYN/ Pediatrics	2	Medical	8
Trauma	4	Trauma	6
Pt. Assessment	3	OB/GYN/Pediatrics	16
Airway	2	Operations	2
Medical/Behavior	4	Electives/ Additional CE	24
Electives	8	Minimum 72 hours required for renewal	
Additional CE required	48		
Minimum 72 hours required for renewal		Refresher Courses should meet minimum standards for National Registry renewals: EMT Refresher = 24 hours minimum Intermediate Refresher = 36 hours Paramedic Refresher = 48 hours ACLS can be listed in the A,B, C category For Mandatory Core PALS can be listed in the Pediatric Category for Mandatory Core	
Advanced EMT			
Intermediate 85 and 99			
Airway Breathing Cardiology	12		
Medical	6		
Trauma	5		
OB/GYN/Pediatrics	12		
Operations	1		
Electives/ Additional CE	36		
Minimum 72 hours required for renewal			

COLORADO EMS PROVIDER RECERTIFICATION
Skills Evaluation and Attestation

Signatures must be on file for EVERY person that verifies EMS education AND/OR skill competency. This includes an EMS Education Center and Group Medical Director, if he or she signs for a provider's skills attestation.
Signature affidavits may be found on the EMTS website www.coems.info

Certification Renewal

- Individuals recertifying at their current EMS provider level must successfully complete the skills attestation prior to submitting their application for recertification, including the appropriate signature.
- Skills evaluations and attestations are valid for one year from the date of completion.
- Skills attestation, remediation and retesting policy and procedures shall be clearly defined by EMS education centers and groups.
- Skills attestation records and documentation should be maintained according to an EMS education center and group's policies.
- Skills attestation may be completed through a variety of methods:
 - Skills evaluation in classroom or practical lab setting

- Direct supervision and observation in the field/clinical setting
- Detailed and defined QA/QI process with documentation of skill performance (medical and trauma patient assessment)
- Classroom or lab evaluation shall utilize both medical and trauma related scenarios.
 - National Registry skills sheets may be utilized for skills attestation.
 - Skills sheets for all levels of EMS providers may be found at www.nremt.org
 - EMS education centers and groups may also develop their own skills sheets for documentation of skills evaluation.
- Skills attestation must be completed in a fair, non-discriminatory, valid and reliable manner.

NREMT Certification Renewal

- Skills verification for National Registry recertification must be completed according to National Registry requirements (www.nremt.org).

**COLORADO EMS PROVIDER RECERTIFICATION
Recommended Classifications for Continuing Education***

Preparatory/Operations	Medical	Airway Management
Anatomy and Physiology	Abdominal/Gastrointestinal Disorders	Airway Management /Airway Techniques
Clinical Behavior / Judgment	Cardiovascular	Artificial /Mechanical Ventilation
Clinical Assessment	Diseases of the Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat	Assessment: Diagnostics (Pulse Ox, ETCO ₂)
Cultural/ Special Populations Considerations	Endocrine Disorders	Respiratory Assessment
Decision-Making /Disposition	Environmental Emergencies	
Documentation/Record Keeping	Ex: heat/cold emergencies, altitude illness)	Airway, Breathing, Cardiovascular
EMS System Operational Readiness	Genitourinary/Renal	Airway Mgmt/Artificial Ventilation
EMS System Communication	Gynecology	Assessment: Diagnostics (Pulse Ox, ETCO ₂)
End of Life Decisions / Termination of Care	Hematology	Cardiac Emergencies
Homeland Security	Immunology	EKG Interpretation
Life Span Development	Infectious Diseases	Monitoring
Medical Terminology	Medical Overview	Cardiac Medications/Treatments
Medical/Legal /Ethical Issues	Neurology (Ex: altered mental status, strokes)	
Med Administration/Emergency Meds	Non-Traumatic Musculoskeletal Disorders	Patient Assessment
Pathophysiology of Disease Processes	Psychiatric	History Taking /Vitals
Pre-arrival Care (i.e. Hospice, Home Remedies)	Respiratory	Assessment Adjuncts /Monitoring Devices
Prevention /Education (i.e. Injury Prevention)	Toxicology	Primary Assessment /On-going Assessment
Principles of Pharmacology		Scene Size-Up
Professionalism (i.e. Interagency Cooperation)	Obstetrics	Field impression/Differential Diagnosis
Public Health Issues (i.e. Reportable Diseases)	Any Content Relative to Pregnancy/ Childbirth	Therapeutic Interventions
Psychomotor Skills / Hands-on Skills	Medical/Trauma Topics: Pregnant Patients	Trauma
Resource Management	Gynecological Emergencies	Abdominal Genitourinary Trauma
Research /CQI/Data Collections /Analysis		Chest Trauma
Scene Size-up (i.e. BSI & PPE, Crew Safety)		Environmental Emergencies (bites and stings)
System Design/ Management	Pediatrics	Extremity Trauma
Team Management/Multitasking	Can be medical or trauma content; may include	Head, Facial, Neck, and Spine Trauma
Therapeutic Communication	Child abuse	Multisystem Trauma
Workforce Education/ Safety/ Well-being	Care of the newborn	Orthopedic Trauma
EMS Operations	Neonatal care	Shock / Bleeding
Air Medical /Specialty Transport	Sports injuries (children)	Soft Tissue Trauma
Emergency Vehicle Operation		Trauma in Specialty Populations
Extrication/ Rescue		Trauma Overview
Hazardous Materials/Decontamination		
Incident Management /Special Operations	*These are ONLY recommendations.	
Multiple Casualty Incidents /ICS	NOTE: Any EMS related CE hours in excess of minimum requirements may be used in the	
Specialty Care (i.e. TEMS, USAR)	Elective categories	