



### RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Board Meeting Date: March 16, 2016

Subject: Minimum Core Content Requirements

VTR#: 0316-02

Committee/Task Force: EMS Education Task Force

Recommended Goal

Recommended Policy Change

Other:

#### **Recommendation:**

The Department of Health should require a minimum of two (2) hours of core continuing education in each of the following five categories during a provider's registration cycle:

- Airway, Breathing, and Cardiology
- Pediatrics/Obstetrics
- Medical Emergencies
- Trauma
- Operational

#### **Rationale [Background]:**

The EMS Rules and Regulations reference core continuing education in each of the continuing education requirements for all provider levels, for example:

28 Pa. Code § 1023.31 (b) (1)

*(1) Sixteen credits in instruction in subjects related to the scope of practice of an EMR as set forth in § 1023.24(a) and (d) (relating to emergency medical responder) and which have been approved by the Department for continuing education credit. At least 12 of the credits shall be in clinical patient care and other core continuing education courses as specified in a notice the Department publishes in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.*

The IRRC Comments and Department response explain the purpose further:

*"Section 1023.31(a), (b)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), (f)(1), (g)(1) and (h)(1) gives the Department authority to publish in the Pennsylvania Bulletin notices regarding continuing education for EMS providers. This section states that the Department will publish in the Pennsylvania Bulletin a notice regarding the types of instruction that each EMS provider type shall receive to satisfy continuing education requirements. Each EMS provider will be required to complete a certain amount of continuing education credits in clinical patient care and other core continuing education courses. The number of credits required for each type of EMS provider is set by regulation and the Department will not change that number through notices published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. However, as an EMS provider's scope of practice changes, and this Commonwealth's EMS system evolves through advancements in technology, equipment and supplies, the Department will need the flexibility*

*to specify the subject matter areas or courses meeting requirements for the continuing education credits for each type of EMS provider.”*

The EMS Education Task Force supports core continuing education requirements as an effort to ensure that providers receive balanced continuing education. Moving forward with core continuing education requirements will provide the opportunity to make data driven decisions to ensure that providers receive education in areas that will help improve care in the patient populations encountered in the Commonwealth.

While the current recommendation is to require two hours in each of the identified content areas, the task force envisions that those hours will be gradually increased to reflect the patient population and types of calls in the system as derived from NEMSIS data collected. The task force chose the identified content areas for this recommendation to be consistent with VTR 1214-03, approved by the Board in December, 2014.

The Pennsylvania EMS for Children Advisory Committee was also tasked by the Department to provide input related to pediatric content within the Core Content hours. After discussion and consultation with the EMS Education Task Force, the EMS for Children Advisory Committee voted unanimously to support the VTR put forth by the EMS Education Task Force.

**Implementation/Education Concerns:** Core continuing education requirements will be a significant change for all stakeholders. The task force anticipates challenges for the Department in tracking the required hours, and for providers in understanding and adjusting to the new requirements. The task force intentionally set the initial recommended hours low to allow for an easier implementation process with the assumption that most providers will already meet these minimum recommended hours.

The PEHSC Committee/Task Force offers consultation to the Department in regard to the content of this Vote to Recommend (VTR) and its attached documents. The PEHSC Committee/Task Force specifically offers staff or member support to participate in Department deliberations regarding this recommendation in an effort to convey committee/task force discussions.

**Board Meeting Comments/Concerns:**

No Board comments or concerns expressed.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
President

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For PEHSC Use Only – PA Department of Health Response

Accept:\_\_\_\_ Table:\_\_\_\_ Modify:\_\_\_\_ Reject:\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Date of Department Response:\_\_\_\_\_