Policy 2022-B

EMS Education Programs – clinical/field and skills proficiency requirements clarification

October 1, 2022

Background

EMS Education Programs are responsible for meeting the national education training standards, including providing appropriate physical resources for classrooms, laboratory facilities, and clinical and field internship rotations.

Traditionally, courses have been conducted in a classroom setting; however, today's technology provides opportunities for students to acquire training through distance learning, hybrid, or online courses. Courses of this type can be taken anywhere, and many programs offer these courses to students seeking Texas licensure.

There continues to be an increased challenge to find facilities that allow students to complete their required clinical rotations within a hospital setting. This policy document will clarify other opportunities for EMS Education Programs to satisfy the clinical rotation requirement.

Paramedic programs with CAAHEP accreditation or under a letter-of-review from CoAEMSP will need to follow the CAAHEP/CoAEMSP process for making changes to the approved self-study guide.

Rule Reference

Texas Administrative Code 157.32 (i) Self-study requirements.

(1) A self-study is a self-evaluation and compilation of documents that describes the proposed or existing program's overall process. It shall explain and/or document the program's organizational structure, resources, facilities, record keeping, personnel, and their qualifications, policies and procedures, textbooks, course delivery methods used, **clinical and field affiliations**, student-to-patient contact matrix, psychomotor competency

evaluations, a copy of all advertisements, documents provided to students and describe what is necessary for students to complete the program.

Policy

EMS Education Programs providing EMS initial education courses to students seeking Texas licensure, with documented approval from the EMS Education Program Medical Director and the EMS Education Program Advisory Committee, may conduct clinical rotations in healthcare settings other than in a hospital. These health care settings MUST have live patients for students to access and treat which could include an ambulance. The program will follow the preceptor process outlined in the approved course self-study guide.

EMS Education Programs should research, with their own legal counsel, any liability issues by conducting clinical rotations outside of a hospital facility.

This policy will be re-evaluated when the official process begins for amending the current, approved rules.

Joseph W Schmider

Joseph W. Schmider, Director

Emergency Medical Services Program

EMS/Trauma System Section

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This rescinds Policy 03-J dated February 27, 2003.