



## Continuing Medical Education (CME) Recertification Program Information Packet

The CME recertification program has been identified as an important element in the retention of EMS providers. Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services is committed to working with the EMS agencies in our county to assure that the CME program is available, beneficial, and responsive to the needs of the agencies and the individuals who provide prehospital emergency medical care. Working together, we can make the CME program an interesting, informative and effective way to assure that our response personnel have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide appropriate prehospital care without requiring students to take a traditional EMT refresher course.

A New York State Department of Health approved CME-based recertification program is available through the Office of Emergency Services at the EMT (Basic) level for members of EMS agencies within Cattaraugus County. The CME program allows currently certified EMTs who are in continuous practice and who demonstrate competency to renew their NYS EMT certification by participating in approved continuing education over the three year certification period without having to take the State's traditional final practical skills evaluation and written examination. The CME recertification program for the EMT level includes 26 hours of "core" content and 46 hours of "non-core" content. CME recertification should not be thought of as being an easier option, but a different option especially for those who have difficulty taking State written examinations, attending traditional refresher class schedules, or other unique needs.

The NYS DOH CME based recertification program is an agency based program, meaning that EMTs cannot recertify in the program unless they belong to an agency that is participating in the program. In addition, the agency must not only apply to be in the program but is also responsible for assuring that the education is consistent with the State standards and assist its members with completion requirements. If the agency so chooses, Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services can serve as an affiliate to the agency within the county that is registered with the New York State BEMS CME program. The affiliation means that Emergency Services will provide the required core CME content, assist with policy creation, agency and EMT program enrollment, tracking of providers' progress throughout their recertification period, and maintain all records. In addition, Emergency Services will submit the required paperwork to the NYS DOH BEMS for providers' recertification.

It is the responsibility of the provider and agency to ensure participants receive the 46 hours of non-core content. Non-core CME can be earned in multiple ways. More information about CME content can be found in this packet. The agency and/or provider must provide all non-core content documentation to Emergency Services within 30 days of the activity to be included in the provider's recertification file. Failure to provide the documentation will result in no CME credit.

Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services, as an affiliate of the agency, requires that all registered CME participants complete their core and non-core content at least 90 days prior to the expiration of their current certification. This allows Emergency Services several days to review all the documentation and submit the paperwork to the NYS DOH BEMS who requires the completed paperwork at least 45 days prior to the certification expiration date.

### Agency Registration

Agencies interested in participating in the CME Recertification Program must register with the NYS DOH BEMS. If the agency would like Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services to serve as an affiliate of the agency, we will assist agencies in completing registration forms, creating policies, and understanding the requirements of the program.

Agencies interested in enrolling in the CME recertification program and having Emergency Services serve as an affiliate should contact the Office of Emergency Services at (716) 938-2244 to begin the process.



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## Cost

Emergency Services will submit for reimbursement from NYS for tuition of students who recertify through the CME program. This NYS funded tuition pays for the EMT’s attendance at the core content CME course.

For each participant enrolled in the CME program from an agency that has an affiliation agreement there will be a \$50 annual charge. This \$50 per participant, annual charge covers the management of the CME records and tracking of the participant’s progress throughout the CME program. The fees will be billed directly to the agency on an annual basis.

Agencies that are participating in the program but choose NOT to affiliate with Emergency Services may still register EMTs to attend the core CME sessions offered by our office. Emergency Services will submit for reimbursement from NYS for these students. Due to the fact that these agencies are not utilizing the Emergency Services affiliation and are managing their own records, the \$50 annual charge per participant will be waived.

## Core CME

Core CME content is a review of the up-to-date original curriculum for the EMT level of care. An EMT is required to complete 26 hours of core content CME during each 3 year recertification period. Core content CME can only be obtained by attending an Emergency Services core CME course. This course will be approximately 11 sessions with each session being 3-4 hours in length for a total of 35 hours. The core CME course will provide the participant with the required 26 hours of core content CME and an additional 9 hours of non-core CME. The student must attend all sessions of the core CME course. Students may choose to attend different sessions at different locations, but must finish all 12 sessions within the calendar year in which they began. The core CME class only needs to be completed once within the 3 year recertification period but must be completed 90 days prior to the student’s certification expiration date.

Class #	Class Hours	Core Hours	Non Core Hours	Topic (Number of hours per topic)
1	3	3	0	Preparatory (1), EMS Operations (1), Special Needs Patients (1)
2	3	3	0	Airway (2), Respiratory (1)
3	3	3	0	Patient Assessment Medical & Trauma (3)
4	3	3	0	Pharmacology/Med Admin/Emerg Meds(1), Cardiology(1), Shock/Resuscitation (1)
5	3	0	3	AHA Recertification – BLS for Health Care Providers
6	3	3	0	Immunology/Toxicology (1), Endocrine/Neurology (1), Psychiatric (1)
7	3	3	0	Abdominal/Geni-Renal/GI/Hematology (3)
8	4	4	0	Geriatrics (2), Obstetrics/Neonate/Pediatrics (2)
9	4	4	0	Trauma (4)
10	3	0	3	Skills Practice -All Practical Skills Stations
11	3	0	3	Skills Verification – All Practical Skills
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	

## Non-Core CME

Non-Core CME allows for the study of a variety of EMS related topics to fit the interest of the participant or to meet the needs of the agency and community. It allows for more options and choices for an individual provider and can be utilized to update and/or introduce new material. An EMT is required to complete 46 hours of non-core CME in each 3 year recertification period. As mentioned above, 9 of these 46 hours will be earned during the core content CME course. Emergency Services is not required to and does not guarantee to supply non-core CME. When possible, we may offer certain classes that will count towards this requirement. Completion of the non-core CME is the responsibility each



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participant. Proof of content, attendance, and participation must be submitted to Emergency Services within 30 days of completion of the non-core CME activity.

Ways to obtain additional CME credits include, but not limited to:

Agency drills and in-service EMS training such as:

- Skills workshops
- Protocol updates and review
- QI call reviews and audits
- In-services completed by Medical Director

OSHA & other mandatory training including:

- Ambulance driving and safety
- Some Hazmat
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Incident Command System Training

EMS Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures such as:

- Vital Signs Conference
- STEMS Annual Conference
- EMS Expo

Nationally recognized continuing education programs including:

- Pediatric courses (PEPP)
- Trauma courses (ITLS, BTLS)
- Adult and Geriatric courses such as GEMS

Self Study Activities including:

- Internet and Web based courses and programs
- Magazine articles and EMS Literature review

**\*Note: Each category (preparatory, Airway, CPR, Patient Assessment, Trauma, Medical, Special Considerations, and EMS Operations) is limited to twelve (12) hours total of non-core CME\***

### **Additional Requirements**

Providers must have proof of completion of the ICS 100.b, ICS 700.a and Hazmat awareness. Courses must have been completed within the past 6 years. \*Copies maybe on file with the Office of Emergency Services. Students should call Emergency Services at (716) 938-2212 and speak to Naomi in order to verify if copies of certificates are on file.