



**Department of Public Health
Emergency Medical Services Agency**

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This policy supersedes any other existing policy on this subject.

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- Subject:** **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CONTINUING EDUCATION STANDARDS**
- Authority:** Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.175 and 1797.208; California Code of Regulations, Title 22
- Purpose:** To provide guidelines for EMS Personnel and providers of EMS continuing education (CE) regarding training that meets the standards for EMS CE credit.
- Definition:** CEH – means Continuing Education Hour which shall be a minimum of 50 minutes. CE courses shall be a minimum of one (1) CEH in length.
- Policy:** EMS continuing education shall be approved when it meets the standards identified within this policy.
1. Continuing Education Topics
 - A. Continuing education for EMS personnel shall be in any of the topics contained in the respective National Standard Curricula for training EMS personnel, except as provided in Section 1 B, below.
 - B. Advanced topics in subject matter outside the scope of practice of the certified or licensed EMS personnel but directly relevant to emergency medical care (e.g. surgical airway procedures).
 - C. In lieu of completing the required CEH, EMT-I certification can be maintained by successfully completing an approved refresher course pursuant to Section 100080 of Chapter 2, Division 9, Title 22, California Code of Regulations.
 - D. All approved CE shall contain a written and/or skills competency based evaluation related to course, class, or activity objectives.
 2. CE Delivery Formats and Limitations

Delivery formats for CE courses shall be by any of the following:

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- A. Classroom – didactic and/or skills laboratory where direct interaction with an instructor is possible.
- B. Organized field care audits of patient care records;
- C. Courses offered by accredited universities and colleges, including junior and community colleges (no more than 10 CE hours per course per semester);
- D. Structured clinical experience, with instructional objectives, to review or expand the clinical expertise of the individual;
- E. Media based and/or serial productions (e.g. films, videos, audiotape programs, magazine articles offered for CE credit, home study, computer simulations or interactive computer modules);
- F. Precepting EMS students or EMS personnel as a hospital clinical preceptor, as assigned by an EMS training program, an EMS service provider, a hospital or alternate base station. In order to issue CE for precepting EMS students or EMS personnel, an EMS service provider, hospital or base station must be a CE provider approved by the EMS Agency or the State EMS Authority. CE for precepting can only be given for actual time spent precepting a student or EMS personnel and must be issued by the EMS training program, EMS service provider, hospital or base station that has an agreement or contract with the hospital clinical preceptor or with the preceptor's employer.
- G. Precepting EMS students or EMS personnel as a field preceptor, as assigned by an EMS training program or an EMS service provider approved by the EMS Agency or the State EMS Authority. CE for precepting can only be given for actual time precepting a student and must be issued by the EMS training program or EMS service provider that has an agreement or contract with the field preceptor or with the preceptor's employer. In order to issue CE for precepting EMS students or EMS personnel, an EMS service provider must be a CE provider approved by the EMS Agency or State EMS Authority.
- H. At least fifty percent of the required CE hours must be in a format that is instructor based, which means that instructor resources are readily available to the student to answer questions, provide feedback, provide clarification, and address concerns (e.g., on-line CE courses where an instructor is available to the student). This provision shall not include precepting or magazine articles for CE credit. The CE provider approving authority shall determine whether a CE course, class or activity is instructor based.
- I. During a certification or licensure cycle, an individual may receive credit, one time only, for service as a CE course, class, or activity instructor. Credit received shall be the same as the number of CE hours applied to the course, class, or activity.
- J. During a certification or licensure cycle, an individual may receive credit, one time only, for service as an instructor for one of the following; an approved EMT-I, EMT-II, or paramedic training program, except that the hours of service shall not exceed fifty percent of the total CE hours required in a single certification cycle.
- K. When guided by the EMS service provider's Quality Improvement Program (QIP), an EMS service provider that is an approved CE provider may issue CE for skills competency demonstrations to address any deficiencies identified by the service provider's QIP. Skills competency demonstration shall be conducted in accordance with the respective National Standard

- Curriculum skills outline or in accordance with the policies and procedures of the EMS agency medical director.
- L. An individual may receive credit for taking the same CE course, class, or activity no more than two times during a single certification or licensure cycle.
 - M. If it is determined through a QIP that EMS personnel need remediation in an area of the individual's knowledge and/or skills, the EMS Agency medical director or an EMS service provider may require the EMS personnel to take an approved CE course with learning objectives that addresses the remediation needed, as part of the individual's required hours of CE for maintaining certification.
3. Excluded Courses and/or Training
- The following courses and/or training have been determined unacceptable for C.E. credit by the California EMS Authority:
- A. Courses that focus on self-improvement (e.g. personal growth, self-therapy, self-awareness, weight loss, yoga, etc.).
 - B. Parenting, Lamaze or other courses designed for the lay public.
 - C. Economics
 - D. Liberal arts courses (e.g. music, art, philosophy)
 - E. Workplace orientation (e.g. orientation for local accreditation, employer orientation, etc.)
 - F. Fire science courses
 - G. Precepting students
4. To ensure EMS C.E. credit, prior approval by the Merced County EMS Agency shall be required for any course which is not described herein.