

CHAPTER 1025. EDUCATION

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Authority

The provisions of this Chapter 1025 issued under the Emergency Medical Services System Act, 35 Pa.C.S. §§ 8101—8157, unless otherwise noted.

Source

The provisions of this Chapter 1025 adopted October 11, 2013, effective April 10, 2014, 43 Pa.B. 6093, unless otherwise noted.

Subchapter A. EMS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

Sec.
1025.1. Accreditation and operational requirements of EMS educational institutes.
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§ 1025.1. Accreditation and operational requirements of EMS educational institutes.

(a) *Eligible entity.* An EMS educational institute shall be a secondary or post-secondary institution, hospital, regional EMS council, an educational institute in a branch of the armed forces or another entity which meets the criteria in this chapter.

(b) *Educational programs.*

(1) An EMS educational institute that is accredited by the Department to offer BLS educational courses (BLS educational institute) shall evidence the ability to conduct one or more of the following EMS provider educational courses:

- (i) Emergency medical responder course.
- (ii) Emergency medical technician course.
- (iii) Advanced emergency medical technician course.

(2) An EMS educational institute that is accredited by the Department to offer ALS educational courses (ALS educational institute) shall evidence the ability to conduct one or more of the following EMS provider educational courses:

- (i) A course listed under subsection (b)(1).
- (ii) Paramedic course.

(3) An EMS educational institute shall register with the Department the location and staffing plan of a course it offers towards satisfying an EMS provider certification educational requirement at least 30 business days before the first class is held.

(c) *Advisory committee.*

(1) An EMS educational institute shall have an advisory committee that is comprised of representatives of the EMS communities that have an interest in the EMS provider educational courses the institute offers, and which also includes a representative of an appropriate regional EMS council and the institute's medical director.

(2) The advisory committee shall meet at least annually and assist program personnel in formulating and periodically revising appropriate goals and objectives and in monitoring the EMS educational institute's performance.

(d) *Disclosure to students and prospective students.* An EMS educational institute shall disclose the following to students and prospective students:

(1) The institute's accreditation status.

(2) The Department is the accrediting body, the contact information for the Department and the regional EMS councils where its courses are offered, as provided to the institute by the Department and those regional EMS councils.

(3) The institute's admissions, discipline, and discharge policies and practices.

(4) The functional job analysis of each EMS provider classification for which it is offering an EMS provider educational course.

(5) The requirements for completing each EMS provider educational course it offers, including, to the extent known, advance notice of the books and materials required for each course.

(6) The tuition fees and other costs involved in completing each EMS provider educational course.

(7) The policy and process for withdrawal from a course and the refund of tuition and other fees.

(8) Information as to how students may perform clinical work while enrolled in an EMS provider educational course.

(9) The percentage of students for the previous 3 years who enrolled in and completed each EMS provider educational course offered by the institute.

(10) The percentage of students for the previous 3 years, for each EMS provider educational course, who obtained EMS provider certification, and a percentage of the students who obtained certification after a first examination.

(11) The regulatory requirements for testing leading to EMS provider certification.

(12) The EMS educational institute's policies for the prevention of sexual harassment.

(e) *Medical director.*

(1) An EMS educational institute shall have a medical director who is a physician. The medical director shall be experienced in emergency medical care and have demonstrated ability in education and administration.

(2) The responsibilities of the medical director include:

- (i) Reviewing course content to ensure compliance with this chapter.
- (ii) Reviewing and approving the EMS educational institute's criteria for the recruitment, selection and orientation of educational institute faculty.
- (iii) Providing technical advice and assistance to the EMS educational institute faculty and students.
- (iv) Reviewing the quality and medical content of the education and compliance with protocols.
- (v) Participating in the review of new technology for training and education.

(3) Additional responsibilities for a medical director of an ALS educational institute include:

- (i) Approving the content of course written and practical skills examinations.
- (ii) Identifying and approving facilities where students are to fulfill clinical and field internship requirements.
- (iii) Identifying and approving individuals to serve as field and clinical preceptors to supervise and evaluate student performance when fulfilling clinical and field internship requirements.
- (iv) Signing skill verification forms for students who demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for successful completion of the EMS provider educational course and entry level competency for the EMS provider for which the EMS provider educational course is offered.

(f) *Administrative director.*

(1) A BLS educational institute shall have an administrative director who has at least 2 years of experience in administration and 3 years of experience in prehospital care.

(2) An ALS educational institute shall have an administrative director who has at least 2 years of experience in administration and 3 years of experience in ALS prehospital care, and who has a bachelor's degree from an accredited school of higher education and an EMS provider certification above the AEMT level.

(3) Responsibilities of the administrative director include ensuring:

- (i) The adequacy of the system for processing student applications and the adequacy of the student selection process.
- (ii) The adequacy of the process for the screening and selection of instructors for the EMS educational institute.
- (iii) The EMS educational institute maintains an adequate inventory of necessary educational equipment and that the training equipment is properly prepared and maintained.

(iv) The adequate administration of the course and written and practical skills examinations involved in the course.

(v) There is an adequate system for the maintenance of student records and files.

(vi) There is an appropriate mechanism to resolve disputes between students and faculty.

(4) The administrative director shall serve as the contact person and liaison between the EMS educational institute and the Department and regional EMS councils. The administrative director may designate another person to perform those functions and monitor that person's performance to ensure that the contact and liaison responsibilities are being satisfied.

(g) *Course coordinator.*

(1) The EMS educational institute shall designate a course coordinator for each EMS provider educational course conducted by the educational institute.

(2) A course coordinator shall satisfy the following requirements:

(i) Reading and language skills commensurate with the resource materials to be utilized in the course.

(ii) Knowledge of the Statewide EMS protocols and of the regional EMS protocols for each EMS region where the course is offered.

(iii) Three years of clinical experience providing prehospital care as an EMS provider at or above the EMT level.

(iv) Certification as an EMS instructor.

(3) The 3 years of clinical experience providing prehospital care of a course coordinator for an ALS educational course shall be as an EMS provider above the AEMT level.

(4) A course coordinator is responsible for the management and supervision of each EMS provider educational course offered by the educational institute for which that individual serves as a course coordinator.

(5) Specific duties of a course coordinator shall be assigned by the EMS educational institute.

(6) One person may serve both as the administrative director and a course coordinator.

(h) *Instructors.*

(1) An EMS educational institute shall ensure the availability of qualified and responsible instructors for each EMS provider educational course.

(2) The EMS educational institute shall make available faculty development for EMS instructors in the concepts of utilizing a variety of instructional strategies, adapting to students with diverse backgrounds and different learning styles and be responsible for ensuring that its instructors are competent in providing education employing those instructional strategies.

(3) An instructor shall be 18 years of age or older and possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

(4) At least 75% of the instruction provided in EMS provider educational courses shall be provided by instructors who are either of the following:

(i) EMS instructors certified by the Department who have at least 3 years of experience as an EMS provider at or above the level they are teaching and at least 2 years of experience in teaching an EMS provider educational course at or above the level they are teaching.

(ii) Determined by the course coordinator and the medical director of the EMS educational institute to meet or exceed these standards.

(5) The EMS educational institute's medical director, in consultation with appropriate course coordinators, is responsible for verifying the special expertise of an instructor who does not satisfy the requirements in paragraph (4) and for specifying the portions of the curriculum that are appropriate for the instructor to teach.

(6) Instructors are responsible for presenting course materials in accordance with the curriculum established or approved for the course by the Department for the EMS provider level of the course and the Statewide EMS protocols applicable to that EMS provider level.

(i) *Clinical preceptors.*

(1) An EMS educational institute shall ensure the availability of clinical preceptors for each EMS provider educational course.

(2) A clinical preceptor is responsible for the supervision and evaluation of students while fulfilling clinical requirements for an EMS provider educational course.

(j) *Field preceptors.*

(1) An EMS educational institute shall ensure the availability of qualified field preceptors for each student enrolled in an EMS provider educational course at or above the AEMT level.

(2) An EMS educational institute shall ensure the availability of a qualified field preceptor for each student enrolled in an EMS provider educational course below the AEMT level for which it provides a field internship.

(3) An EMS educational institute shall use as a field preceptor for an EMS provider educational course an EMS provider who is certified and practicing at or above the level of the EMS provider certification for which the course is being taught.

(4) A field preceptor is responsible for the supervision and evaluation of students while fulfilling a field internship for an EMS provider educational course. A field preceptor shall directly supervise a student's performance of any EMS skill for which the student does not have an EMS provider certification under which the student is authorized to perform the skill.

(k) *Facilities and equipment.* An EMS educational institute shall:

(1) Maintain educational facilities necessary for the provision of EMS provider educational courses, including satisfying applicable State and Federal standards to address the needs of persons with disabilities. The facilities shall

include classrooms and space for equipment storage and be of sufficient size and quality to conduct didactic and practical skill performance sessions.

(2) Provide, properly prepare and maintain the essential equipment, including simulators and task trainers, and the supplies to administer the course.

(1) *Operating procedures.* An EMS educational institute shall:

(1) Adopt and implement a nondiscrimination policy with respect to student selection and faculty recruitment.

(2) Maintain a file on each enrolled student which includes class performance, practical and written examination results, and reports made concerning the progress of the student during the EMS provider educational course.

(3) Provide a mechanism by which students may grieve decisions made by the institute regarding dismissal from an EMS provider educational course or other disciplinary action.

(4) Provide students with preparation for testing leading to EMS provider certification.

(5) Have a policy regarding the transfer of a student into or out of an EMS provider educational course from one EMS educational institute to another.

(6) Have a continuing quality improvement process in place for students, instructors and clinical evaluation.

(7) Require each student applicant to complete an application for enrollment provided by the Department.

(8) Require each student to complete and submit the form or complete the electronic process, as prescribed by the Department, under § 1023.21(b) (relating to general rights and responsibilities) for reporting criminal convictions, discipline and exclusion from a State or Federal health care program. The EMS educational institute shall inform each student of the duty to update the report if there is a change in this information before the Department acts upon the student's application for EMS provider certification.

(9) Forward a copy of the form completed under paragraph (8) to the regional EMS council having responsibility in the EMS region where the EMS educational institute operates, no later than 14 days after the first class session.

(10) Prepare a course completion form, including an updated form under § 1023.21(b), for each student who successfully completes the EMS provider educational course and, no later than 14 days after the educational course has concluded, forward that form to the regional EMS council having responsibility in the EMS region where the EMS educational institute operates.

(11) Participate in EMS educational institute system evaluation activities as requested by the Department.

(m) *Providing access to facility and records.* An EMS educational institute and an applicant for EMS educational institute accreditation shall promptly make available to the Department or a regional EMS council, upon request, its educational facility for inspection and provide them with complete and accurate records relating to the institute's compliance with the requirements in this subchapter.

(n) *Transitional requirements.* This section applies to an EMS educational institute that is accredited on April 10, 2014, beginning with its initial application for reaccreditation as an EMS educational institute on or after April 10, 2014, and to its operations as an EMS educational institute beginning with its accreditation under that application.

Cross References

This section cited in 28 Pa. Code § 1023.51 (relating to certified EMS instructors); 28 Pa. Code § 1025.2 (relating to accreditation process); and 28 Pa. Code § 1031.12 (relating to discipline of EMS educational institutes).

§ 1025.2. Accreditation process.

An EMS educational institute shall meet the following requirements to be accredited by the Department:

- (1) The applicant shall submit an application for accreditation on forms or through an electronic process, as prescribed by the Department, to the regional EMS council having responsibility in the EMS region where the EMS educational institute intends to conduct its primary operations. An applicant for reaccreditation shall submit the application at least 180 days, but not more than 1 year, prior to expiration of the current accreditation.
- (2) The regional EMS council shall review the application for completeness and accuracy.
- (3) The regional EMS council has 30 days in which to review the application, conduct an onsite assessment of the institute and determine whether the applicant has satisfied the requirements in § 1025.1 (relating to accreditation and operational requirements of EMS educational institutes).
- (4) The regional EMS council shall forward to the Department the application for accreditation either with an endorsement or an explanation as to why the application has not been endorsed, citing regulatory standards it believes have not been satisfied.
- (5) Within 150 days of receipt, the Department will review the application and make one of the following determinations:
 - (i) *Full accreditation.* The EMS educational institute meets the criteria in § 1025.1, as applicable, and will be accredited to operate for 3 years.
 - (ii) *Conditional accreditation.* The EMS educational institute does not meet criteria in § 1025.1, as applicable, but the deficiencies identified are deemed correctable by the Department. The EMS educational institute will be allowed to proceed or continue to provide accredited EMS education with close observation by the Department. Deficiencies which prevent full accreditation shall be enumerated and corrected within a time period specified by the Department. Conditional accreditation may not exceed 1 year and may not be renewed.

(iii) *Nonaccreditation.* The institute does not meet criteria in § 1025.1 and the deficiencies identified are deemed to be serious enough to preclude any type of accreditation.

(6) An EMS educational institute that has received full or conditional accreditation shall submit status reports to the Department as requested.

(7) Prior to and during accreditation, an EMS educational institute is subject to review, including inspection of records, facilities and equipment by the Department. An authorized representative of the Department may enter, visit and inspect an accredited EMS educational institute or a facility operated by or in connection with the EMS educational institute with or without prior notification. The Department may accept the survey results of another accrediting body if the Department determines that the accreditation standards of the other accrediting body are equal to or exceed the standards in this chapter, and that the survey process employed by the other accrediting body is adequate to gather the information necessary for the Department to make an accreditation decision.

(8) An EMS educational institute shall advise the Department at least 90 days prior to an intended change of ownership or control of the institute. Accreditation is not transferable to new owners or controlling parties.

(9) An EMS educational institute that intends to conduct an EMS educational course in an EMS region under the jurisdiction of a regional EMS council other than that through which it submitted its application for accreditation shall file a written application to amend its accreditation with the regional EMS council having responsibility for the region in which it intends to conduct these courses. That application shall be processed by that regional EMS council and acted upon by the Department within 90 days.

Cross References

This section cited in 28 Pa. Code § 1025.3 (relating to advertising); and 28 Pa. Code § 1031.12 (relating to discipline of EMS educational institutes).

§ 1025.3. Advertising.

(a) An entity may advertise an educational course in a manner that states or suggests that the successful completion of the course satisfies the EMS provider educational course requirement for an EMS provider certification issued by the Department only after the entity has been accredited by the Department as an EMS educational institute and the course has been approved by the Department for that purpose under § 1025.2 (relating to accreditation process).

(b) When an EMS provider educational course has been approved under § 1025.2, the EMS education institute shall announce the following in its brochures or registration materials: This course has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as meeting the educational course requirement that an applicant for certification as a/an (the type of EMS provider or EMS vehicle

operator to which the course applies) needs to satisfy to be certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as a/an (the type of EMS provider or EMS vehicle operator to which the course applies).

Cross References

This section cited in 28 Pa. Code § 1031.12 (relating to discipline of EMS educational institutes).

Subchapter B. EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Sec.

1025.21. Accreditation of sponsors of continuing education.

1025.22. Responsibilities of continuing education sponsors.

1025.23. Advertising.

Cross References

This subchapter cited in 28 Pa. Code § 1031.13 (relating to discipline of providers of EMS continuing education).

§ 1025.21. Accreditation of sponsors of continuing education.

(a) Entities and institutions may apply for accreditation as a continuing education sponsor by submitting to the Department an application on a form or through an electronic process, as prescribed by the Department. The applicant shall supply the information requested in the application. The Department will grant accreditation to an applicant for accreditation as a continuing education sponsor if the applicant satisfies the Department that the courses the applicant offers meet the following minimum standards:

(1) The courses must be of intellectual and practical content.

(2) The courses must contribute directly to the professional competence, skills and education of EMS providers or EMSVOs.

(3) The course instructors shall possess the necessary practical and academic skills to conduct the course effectively.

(4) Course materials shall be well written, carefully prepared, readable and distributed to attendees at or before the time the course is offered whenever practical.

(5) The courses shall be presented by a qualified responsible instructor in a suitable setting devoted to the educational purpose of the course.

(b) Accreditation of the continuing education sponsor will be effective for 3 calendar years.

(c) At least 90 days prior to expiration of the 3-year accreditation period, a continuing education sponsor shall apply to the Department for renewal of the sponsor's accreditation on a form or through an electronic process, as prescribed by the Department. The Department will renew the sponsor's accreditation if the sponsor meets the following requirements:

- (1) The sponsor has presented, within the preceding 3 years, a continuing education course or courses on at least five occasions which met the minimum standards in subsection (a).
- (2) The sponsor establishes to the Department's satisfaction that future courses to be offered by the sponsor will meet the minimum standards in subsection (a).
- (3) The sponsor has satisfied its responsibilities under § 1025.22 (relating to responsibilities of continuing education sponsors).

Source

The provisions of this § 1025.21 adopted October 11, 2013, effective April 10, 2014, 43 Pa.B. 6093.

§ 1025.22. Responsibilities of continuing education sponsors.

(a) *Course approval.* A continuing education sponsor shall submit, to the regional EMS council that exercises responsibility for the EMS region in which the continuing education sponsor intends to conduct a new continuing education course, an application for approval of that continuing education course. The continuing education sponsor shall submit that application at least 30 days prior to the date the continuing education sponsor expects to conduct the course.

(b) *Registration of course.* A continuing education sponsor may not offer, for continuing education credit, a course for which it or another continuing education sponsor has received approval to offer as a continuing education course without registering with the Department the location of the class through which it intends to offer that course for continuing education credit at least 30 days before the class is held.

(c) *Record of attendance.* A continuing education sponsor shall maintain a record of attendance for a course presented in a classroom setting by maintaining a check-in/check-out process approved by the Department and assign at least one person to ensure that the individuals attending the course check in when entering and check out when leaving. If an individual enters a course after the starting time, or leaves a course before the finishing time, the assigned person shall ensure that the time of arrival or departure is recorded for the individual.

(d) *Reporting attendance.* A continuing education sponsor shall report to the Department, in the manner and format prescribed by the Department, attendance at each continuing education course presented in a classroom setting within 10 days after the course has been presented.

(e) *Course evaluation.* A continuing education sponsor shall develop and implement methods to evaluate its course offerings to determine their effectiveness. The methods of evaluation shall include providing a course evaluation form to each person who attends a course. The continuing education sponsor shall pro-

vide a copy of the completed course evaluation forms to the regional EMS council within 10 days after the course has been presented.

(f) *Record retention.* The continuing education sponsor shall retain the completed course evaluation forms for each course it presents and the check-in/check-out record for each course it presents in a classroom setting. These records shall be retained for a minimum of 4 years from the completion of the course.

(g) *Providing access to records.* A continuing education sponsor and an applicant for accreditation as a continuing education sponsor shall promptly make available for inspection and provide the Department or a regional EMS council with complete and accurate records relating to its compliance with the requirements in this subchapter as requested by the Department or a regional EMS council.

(h) *Course not presented in a classroom setting.* A continuing education sponsor shall be exempt from the requirements in subsections (a) and (b) for a course which is not presented in a classroom setting, if the course is approved by the Department for credit when presented in that manner. When presenting the course to the Department for approval for credit, the continuing education sponsor shall present a procedure for monitoring, confirming and reporting EMS provider or EMSVO participation in a manner that achieves the purposes of subsections (a) and (b).

(i) *Monitoring responsibilities.* A continuing education sponsor shall ensure that a course was presented in a manner that met all of the educational objectives for the course and determine whether each EMS provider or EMSVO who enrolled in the course met the requirements in this chapter and the continuing education sponsor to receive credit for completing the course.

(j) *Course completion.* A continuing education sponsor shall report to the Department, in a manner and format prescribed by the Department, completion of a course by an EMS provider or EMSVO and identify to the Department an EMS provider or EMSVO who seeks credit for a course but who did not meet the requirements of the continuing education sponsor or this chapter to receive continuing education credit. The continuing education sponsor shall also provide an EMS provider or EMSVO who completes a course with a document certifying completion of the course.

Cross References

This section cited in 28 Pa. Code § 1025.21 (relating to accreditation of sponsors of continuing education).

§ 1025.23. Advertising.

(a) A continuing education sponsor may advertise a course as a continuing education course in a manner that states or suggests that the course meets the requirements in this chapter only if the course has been approved by the Department to be offered by that continuing education sponsor.

(b) When a course has been approved for continuing education credit, the continuing education sponsor shall announce the following in its brochures or registration materials: This course has been approved by the Pennsylvania

Department of Health for (the approved number of hours) of continuing education credit for (the type of EMS provider(s) or EMS vehicle operator to which the course applies).

(c) If a continuing education sponsor advertises that it has applied to the Department to secure continuing education credit for a course, prior to presenting the course it shall disclose to all enrollees whether the course has been approved or disapproved for credit.

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