

North Country Regional EMS System
Regional Emergency Medical Services Council
Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee
FDRHPO NCEMS Program Agency



**Provider Credentialing
and Certification Process**

Policy and Procedure Manual

Developed by the
North Country Regional Medical Advisory Committee

EFFECTIVE June, 2007

Revised April 4, 2008

Revised September 3, 2008

Revised May 2015

Approved 2016

120 Washington Street, Suite 200 Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: (315)-755-2020 ext. 56 / Fax: (315)-755-2022

www.ncemsprogramagency.org

Section 1:

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Any pre-hospital care provider that operates above the level of a New York State Certified Basic EMT that is sponsored by a certified agency authorized to operate in the North Country EMS Region, or any Emergency Department Physician wishing to obtain applicable Medical Control privileges in the North Country Region, must be evaluated by the criteria established by the North Country Regional Medical Advisory Committee. Agencies must ensure that all providers above the New York State Basic EMT level are in good standing within the region.

Section 2:

REMAC CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

The criteria for REMAC certification will be derived from the standardized North Country EMS Regional 2013 Advanced Life Support Protocols. The evaluation will consist of an online examination based on the above mentioned Regional Protocols as well as an evaluation of practical skills.

Section 3:

REMAC CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. New or returning provider (not credentialed in the online system within the last year) must register online utilizing the agency code of the agency that will be their primary agency. (CME manager for primary agency will receive automatic notification). Online registration verifies active participation in the agency as an advanced provider.
2. CME manager must send the NCEMS program agency a copy of the new or returning provider's NYS EMT Card.
3. NCEMS Program Agency will verify the provider in the system. The agency CME manager and provider will receive an automatic notice that they are verified.
4. Provider must then complete the appropriate protocol exam for their level of care, as well as the patient-restraint protocol update exam. (patient restraint protocol update power point can be found at <http://www.ncemsprogramagency.org/education-and-training/cme.html>)
5. Protocol examinations are to be completed online at www.ncemsprogramagency.org (instructions included at end of document).

6. Each applicant through the agency CME manager must provide the following to the NCEMS Office:
 - A. New York State EMT Certification Card
7. A passing grade of 80% or better must be obtained. If the provider does not achieve a passing grade the first time, he/she may take the exam a second time. If provider does not achieve a passing grade on the second attempt, he/she must be remediated by an agency representative and wait 5 additional business days to retest. Written documentation of remediation must be presented to the Regional office prior to their next exam. A third failure will result in a retest waiting period of 90 days.
8. CME managers will receive automatic notice of provider's test results and once the tests are complete they will be considered credentialed in the North Country Region.
9. A listing of all NCEMS Office credentialed providers will be maintained by the Program Agency Office.

Section 4:

MAINTAINING REMAC CERTIFICATION

1. All pre-hospital care providers operating under Medical Control in the North Country EMS Region will be required to complete CME training in various categories every year. The category requirements are as follows:

Figure 1

	BLS Minimum Required Hours Per Year	ALS Minimum Required Hours Per Year	Total Hours Per Year
AEMT	5	5	10
EMT -Critical Care	10	10	20
EMT -Paramedic	12	12	24

(All hours may be ALS and may be obtained during the first semester
for the year ending December 31st)

2. Credit will be issued for all regionally approved training courses. The North Country Regional Medical Director or their designee must approve any courses not included on the pre-approved course list. County EMS Offices and Medical Control Hospitals are encouraged to provide CME programs throughout the year.

3. Providers must complete at least half of the required hours in the first semester and at least half of those hours must be ALS. All hours may be obtained in the first semester for the year.
4. Providers may request CME credit for Quality Improvement (CQI) Committee participation that involves direct interaction with their Service Medical Director.
 - CME credit will be awarded on an hour for hour basis up to a maximum of 2.0 credit hours per CME semester (Max 4 hours per year). The Service Medical Director must sign the provider's CME Booklet for verification.

Continuing Medical Education Credits (CME)

1. Each provider must complete the required hours of CME Training based on their level of care. Teaching, attending courses, seminars or other continuing medical education sessions relating to the field of prehospital care, can fulfill these credits.
2. The Regional Medical Director or their designee may award credits for any programs outside the scope of this document. It is mandatory that notice be given to the North Country EMS Program Agency Office in advance of attendance in courses which are not listed so that the Agency may advise if CME credits will be authorized.

Instructor Credit

1. CME hours may also be earned through instruction. In order to receive CME credits through instruction, you must be a credentialed instructor. Personnel credentialed as instructors by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, American Safety and Health Institute, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, National Safety Council, New York State Department of Health (CLI or CIC only), National Ski Patrol Outdoor Emergency Care, National Association of EMT's, or any other International or Nationally accredited medical training institute are pre-approved to claim CME credit through instruction. Personnel with instructor credentialing not listed above may seek approval through the NCEMS Office Medical Director. CME credit will be granted in the same category as listed on the CME roster on an hour by hour basis.
2. In order to receive credit, the instructor must have their NCEMS CME sheet signed by the supervising instructor (i.e. CIC, Course Director, etc).

Skills Testing

1. Providers are required to demonstrate their ability to perform various skills pertinent to their level of training with reasonable proficiency. With their signature, an evaluator is acknowledging the provider performed the skills with proficiency. The evaluator has the right to refuse to sign any provider's skill sheet that they feel did not perform a skill proficiently.
2. Skills will generally be assessed in a scenario based format that attempts to create an ever evolving environment similar to those experienced in real patient situations. Evaluators may request a provider to perform a static skill similar to practical sheets.
3. Providers are required to perform an adult medical and pediatric trauma scenario during the January 1st through June 30th semester, and an adult trauma and pediatric medical scenario during the July 1st to December 31st semester.

Section 5:

REPORTING SYSTEM

1. All CME programs held throughout the North Country Region must be pre-approved. Programs that run routinely are approved for CME credit as outlined in the schedule. (See Section 6) New programs are approved after a course outline has been submitted and CME credits are assigned. These programs will be maintained for future reference at the NCEMS Office and need not be submitted for approval again, unless there is a change to the course content. Other programs offered by various agencies, institutions or instructors, may be approved on an individual basis once a course outline has been submitted.
2. To receive credit, individuals need to secure documentation of their attendance, either by way of a Completion Certificate, or preferably on the NCEMS approved CME Sheet. This document needs to be submitted to the provider's primary agency affiliation. At the end of the CME semester, the CME Manager will be required to record all CME hours for each of their providers who are primary to that agency in the online CME system and confirm that they have completed all didactic and skill requirements for the semester by the semester end date. Documentation should be maintained in the providers training files at the agency and will be subject to inspection by the NCEMS Program Agency.
3. If a provider relationship should end, regardless of the reason, the agency is required to provide the provider's name, effective date, and any forwarding information to the NCEMS Office.
4. The NCEMS Office or REMAC will review the following for accuracy and compliance:

- Providers training files for CME sheets randomly as determined by the NCEMS Program Agency

Although all EMS agencies must monitor their own personnel for compliance, the NCEMS Office will determine whether providers are active, in “good standing” and credentialed to practice privileges in the North Country Region. In the event a discrepancy is determined and a provider has not met the requirements the primary agency and provider will be notified in writing via certified mail or email.

North Country Regional suspensions will be issued within 15 days after the end of the CME semester.

Section 6:

PRE-APPROVED CME PROGRAMS

EMT/ AEMT /EMT-CC/PARAMEDIC COURSES:

- ◆ EMT Classes – The didactic time from an original or refresher EMT course will satisfy your didactic requirements for any semester in which you are receiving instruction. The skill requirements from an original or refresher EMT course will satisfy your CME Scenario requirements for any semester in which you successfully complete the practical skills examination for the course. This must be documented on the regional CME form and provided to your primary agency CME manager.
- ◆ ACLS course - The skill requirements from an original or refresher ACLS course will satisfy your ADULT CME Scenario requirements for the semester in which you take the course. You must complete the Pediatric CME Scenario. This must be documented on the regional CME form and provided to your primary agency CME manager
- ◆ PALS course - The skill requirements from an original or refresher PALS course will satisfy your PEDIATRIC CME Scenario requirements for the semester in which you take the course. You must complete the Adult CME Scenario. This must be documented on the regional CME form and provided to your primary agency CME manager.

Miscellaneous CME Programs

Regional EMS conferences (Credit awarded based on actual length of presentation attended)

CPR original or Instructor Course **(8 hrs)**

CPR review /refresher course **(3 hrs)** (maximum of one course per year)

Basic Trauma Life Support-original **(16 hrs)**

Basic Trauma Life Support-refresher **(8 hrs)**

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support-original **(16 hrs)**

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support-refresher **(8 hrs)**

Advanced Cardiac Life Support-original **(16 hrs)**

Advanced Cardiac Life Support-refresher **(8 hrs)**

Pediatric Advanced Life Support-original (16 hrs)
Pediatric Advanced Life Support-refresher (8 hrs)
Neonate Advanced Life Support-original (16 hrs)
Neonate Advanced Life Support refresher (8 hrs)
New York State CLI or CIC (20 hrs)
CEVO or EVOC driving instruction
(Hour for Hour CME Credit to a maximum of 16 hrs)

OSHA annual refresher training

NOTE: There will be a 3-hour CME maximum per year for (Bloodborne Pathogens, Respiratory Protection, Fire Extinguisher Operations and HAZMAT)

NOTE: All current and future courses or programs that are approved by the following organizations will be given primary consideration when a request is made to the North Country EMS Program Agency Office for CME credit:

- | | |
|--|--|
| American Heart Association | New York State Department of Health |
| American Safety and Health Institute | National Safety Council |
| American Red Cross | National Ski Patrol Outdoor Emergency Care |
| American Academy of Pediatrics | National Association of EMT's |
| American College of Emergency Physicians | |

Any international or nationally accredited medical training institute or nationally recognized EMS Conference.

Section 7:

PRO-RATING CME CREDIT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Providers that obtain NCEMS regional privileges after the start of a CME semester will be required to complete pro-rated CME didactic hours based on the date the provider successfully completes the NCEMS Regional requirements as indicated in (Figure 1 Page 3).
 - a. CME credit will be pro-rated at a rate of 2 CME credits per month
 - b. Completion of the Regional Scenarios/skills will be required unless proof of completion during a pre-approved program can be provided.

Section 8:

REMAC RE-CERTIFICATION PROCESS

NCEMS credentials are offered on a two (2) semester, one (1) year cycle. The semesters are January 1st through June 30th, and July 1st through December 31st. Providers who complete all of the mandatory NCEMS CME requirements, maintain their current New York State provider

certification and remain in “good standing” will automatically receive updated NCEMS credentials.

ALL CME verification will be maintained and coordinated by the provider’s primary agency affiliation. It is the responsibility of the provider to complete all mandatory NCEMS CME requirements and to provide the primary agency affiliation with verification of all CME’s completed. The provider will not be notified by the North Country Regional EMS Office to do so.

NCEMS credentials are only valid when accompanied by current New York State Provider Certification. It is the responsibility of the provider to submit current verification of a valid New York State Provider Certification to the North Country Regional EMS Office through their primary agency CME manager. Personal demographics can and should be updated by the EMS provider on the online CME system.

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS does not send certification cards to anyone other than to the provider.

Section 9:

NON-COMPLIANCE OF CME REQUIREMENTS BY A CREDENTIALLED NCEMS PROVIDER

At the end of each semester, the advanced care provider must have completed all required CME’s. The provider should submit their completed CME form to the CME Manager, following the specific reporting requirements of their primary agency. The agency CME Manager will document all CME’s under the notes section in the online CME system and verify completion of didactic and skill requirements on the online CME system. The completed CME form should be kept on file at the agency in the providers training file and made available upon request of the NCEMS Office. Failure to do so will be reported to the NCREMAC for review and potential revocation of the service’s qualification to provide ALS level care.

1. **Failure to comply with regional CME requirements:** If by the end of the CME semester an individual has been found to be deficient in the required CME credit hours to maintain his or her credentials, the provider will be restricted to providing care at the BLS level.

Providers will be charged a \$25.00 fee to come back online if the suspension is the second occurrence within three years

a. Reinstatement of:

- a. **Providers placed on inactive status at their own request:** any provider may be placed on self-declared inactive status following a written request to

the Regional Medical Director. In order to be reinstated the following must be completed or submitted to the North Country EMS Program Agency

- Update user account information via the www.ncemsprogramagency.org website.
 - Completion of protocol exam at the appropriate level
 - Verification of New York State EMT certification
 - Skills demonstration commensurate with certification level, approved by a NCEMS CME evaluator
- b. Provider placed on inactive status and prohibited from practice due to failure to complete CME requirements
- Update user account information via the www.ncemsprogramagency.org website.
 - Completion of protocol exam at the appropriate level
 - Verification of New York State EMT certification
 - CME didactic hours that were not completed for the year. (after one year the provider must come back as a returning provider, see section 3)
 - Skills demonstration commensurate with certification level, approved by a NCEMS CME evaluator

2. **Notification of deficient CME's, resulting in Revocation of an Individual's privileges.** Any individual, who is deficient in completing their CME's will be notified of revocation of their privileges and will be disaffiliated from the list of credentialed providers at the NCEMS Office. In addition, a letter or email will be sent to both the agency and the agency Medical Director of the individual's primary service announcing his/her disaffiliation. Upon successful re-qualification, the individual's name and ID will be returned to the listing.
3. **Disciplinary Action against an Agency using suspended individuals to provide care.** Any agency found to be using individuals that are deficient in completing their CME's to provide advanced level care; will be immediately reported to the NCEMS Director and to the NCREMAC Chair. The Medical Director and chief operating office of agency will ensure that the service immediately ceases to utilize the suspended individual(s), and a mandatory meeting will be scheduled for no more than five (5) business days after the reported violation is received by the NCEMS Office. The meeting must involve the NCREMAC Medical director, the NCEMS Director, the Medical Director of the Service in question and the Chief Operating Officer of the agency in question. At this meeting, the involved service must provide a written plan of corrective action for review by the NCREMAC. The NCREMAC Chair and the NCEMS Director will decide if any further action is indicated, or if the matter is to be remanded to the full NCREMAC for possible revocation of the service's qualification to provide ALS level care.

- a. **Agencies who bill cannot submit to CMS for reimbursement if utilizing providers who are suspended within the region.**

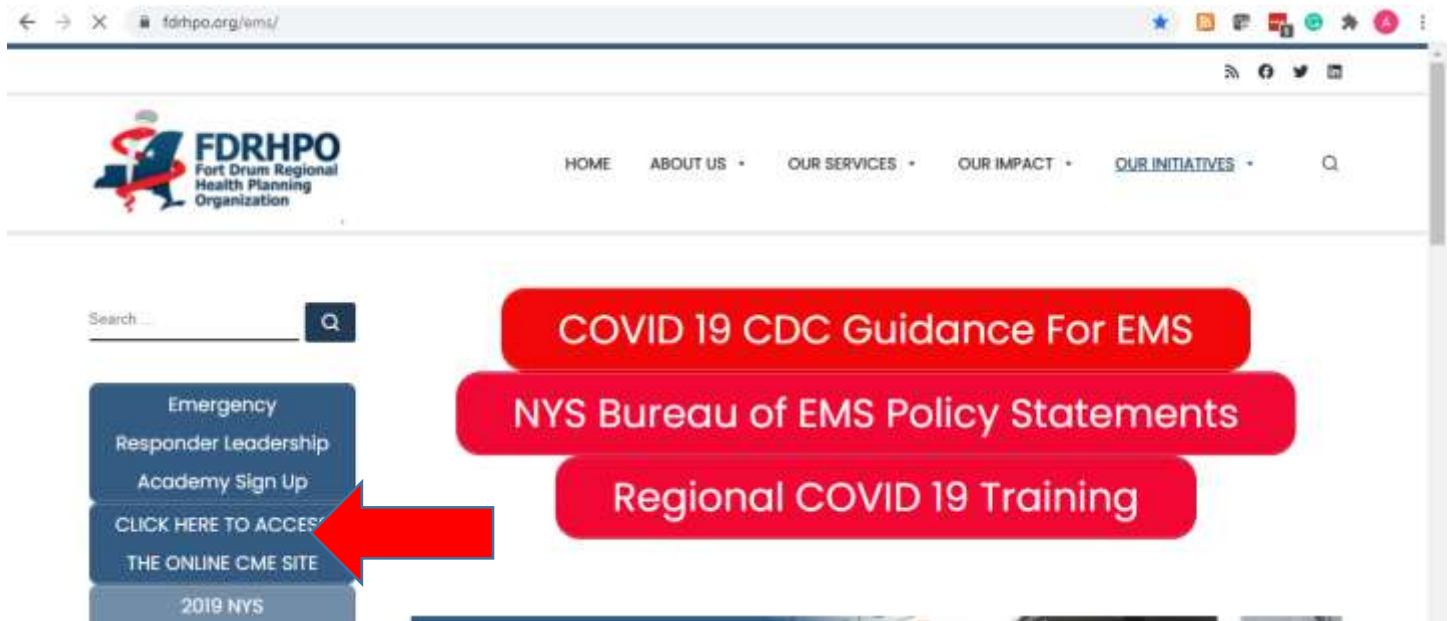
Section 10:

Special Situations

1. **Medical Leave-** Upon return to active status within one year providers need to complete any outstanding CME didactic hours and skills.
Providers on medical leave for over 1 year will be disaffiliated from the online system and will need to update their account information online and follow the returning provider guidelines in section 3 of this manual.
2. **Military Leave-** Providers who are deployed, may resume as an active provider within the region upon verification of their skills when they return. All didactic requirements will be prorated from their date of return to the agency (see Section 7)

Go to www.fdrhpo.org

Click on the link for Online CME



Click Register once on site



Type in primary agency code and click on start, this should be given to you by the agency CME manager

Registration

Please make sure the information you provide to us is accurate and up to date. This information provides the Program Agency with the means of communicating information regarding EMS in the Region and the State. You can update it at any time by clicking on the 'My Profile' link once you have logged on. The information provided on this page and others is used solely for the purposes of the Program Agency and your primary agency. Your privacy is of great concern to us, and we will not be distributed in any way to others.

Agencies

Available Agencies

- Alexandria Bay Vol. Fire Department [2212]
- Beaver Falls Fire Department [2411]
- Belleville Fire Department [0490]
- Black River Ambulance Squad [2232]
- Brier Hill Fire Department [0130]
- Brownville Joint Fire District [1177]
- Calcium Fire Department [4499]
- Canton Rescue Squad [0705]
- Cape Vincent Vol. Fire Department [2235]
- Carthage Area Rescue Squad [2215]
- Chaumont Fire Department [0551]
- City of Ogdensburg Fire Department [1179]
- Chelsea University EMS [0407]

Secondary Agency

Primary Agency

Ogdensburg Vol. Rescue

Basic Info

First Name

Phone

You should receive an email that directs you to send a copy of your card to the Program Agency jcole@fdrhpo.org or asmith@fdrhpo.org

Scan & email, take a picture of your card with smartphone & email, or call our office 315-755-2020 ext 52

315-755-2022 – Fax

Once the program agency verifies you as a provider you will need to log back on the system and take the appropriate protocol test based on your level of care and the patient restraint protocol update for all ALS providers. There is not a protocol test required at the BLS level at this time.