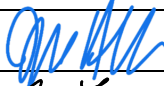





ALS Training and Recertification

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APPROVED:			Joe Hoffman, Medical Program Director		
APPROVED:	 <small>Chief Faucett (Sep 12, 2024 08:42 PDT)</small>		Jeff Faucett, Chair		

I. Purpose

To establish the requirements and procedures necessary to maintain continued training and education, along with obtaining the recommendations of the Kitsap County MPD for recertification of paramedics certified by the State of Washington Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Service and Trauma System

II. Authority: WAC 246-976-920

The MPD will supervise the training of all EMS-certified personnel.

The MPD must recommend certification, recertification, or denial of EMS personnel to the Secretary of Health.

III. Policy

Providers who maintain active quarterly participation and fulfill all annual and recertification requirements may certify by the OTEP method. Providers who do not meet this requirement shall be removed from the OTEP program for the remainder of his/her credential period. Once the provider has recertified, the provider may return to the OTEP program.

The MPD will recommend recertifying those paramedics who are actively and routinely involved in ALS patient care in Kitsap County, Washington, and meet the educational requirements outlined in this policy document.

IV. Definitions

Agency Supervisor: the individual the Washington State Department of Health designated as the EMS agency's primary EMS supervisor.

V. Procedure

A. Record Keeping

1. Each provider is personally responsible for maintaining all records and information regarding their continuing education. Records of successfully completed educational coursework, practical skill evaluations, and skill maintenance requirements will be provided to the agency supervisor when initiating the recertification process through WAC 246-976-163.



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2. The Agency's Medical Officers or their equivalent will review all training records, ensuring compliance with all State and County requirements. The Medical Officer's signature on the recertification application confirms compliance with this requirement.

B. Education Requirements:

All providers must meet education requirements as specified in WAC 246-976-161. Educational requirements may be satisfied by the OTEP Method or CME.

All providers, choosing either OTEP or CME, must participate quarterly as required by WAC-246-976-026.

Providers who choose the OTEP method to satisfy educational requirements must submit renewal applications using the OTEP method. Providers who choose the CME method to meet educational requirements must submit renewal applications using the CME method.

1. Ongoing Training and Evaluation Program (OTEP) Method

The OTEP method is the preferred method to comply with recertification requirements.

If submitting an OTEP method application, providers must meet the following requirements of WAC 246-176-163:

- a. Providers must be active participants in the OTEP program. Active participation in the Kitsap County EMS OTEP Program includes completion of the following within the calendar year:
 1. In-person or remote viewing attendance of **four Kitsap County EMS Base Stations, including any accompanying cognitive assessment for completion.**
 2. Listening to **all Physician Delegate Lecture Series produced for the year.**
 3. Completion of all assigned online modules for the year.
 4. The provider must complete at least **twenty hours of "your choice OTEP" per year.** The provider accruing more than the minimum 20 hours for any year must still fulfill the 20 hours per year during the recertification cycle for any remaining year(s).

Approved OTEP/CME Activities acceptable for "your choice OTEP" credit:

- a. National standards-based healthcare professional training courses, exclusive of those courses required in 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 above (hour-per-hour not to exceed once per course expiration period)
- b. BTLS, NRP, PHTLS, ATLS, AMLS, GEMS,



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- c. Resuscitation Academy
 - d. Mary Bridge Base Station
 - e. Harborview Tuesday Series/UW EMS or Fellowship Grand Rounds series
 - f. Delegate Brown Bags- A provider can earn up to 10 hours maximum per year through delegate brown bags.
 - g. Approved Distributive Education courses, including "self-assigned" Target Solutions Subjects.
 - h. Pre-approved conferences
 - 1. Approval may be provided by the MPD.
 - 2. Conferences that award CME, which has been approved by the Committee on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE), is automatically pre-approved for "Your Choice OTEP" on an hour-for-hour basis.
 - i. Field Training Supervisor/Mentorship Program. The paramedic can earn up to **10 hours max** per certification cycle for mentoring a paramedic student. Mentoring is defined as supervision of a paramedic student from an accredited training program.
 - j. The paramedic can earn up to **10 hours max** per certification cycle for teaching and evaluating during lab of a Kitsap County EMT initial class.(ESE evaluator credential required)
 - k. College courses at the 200 or higher level pertaining to paramedicine and health sciences, with the approval of the MPD.
 - l. Established and relevant online content that provides CME or certificates of completion. Certificates of completion need to be provided to receive credit.
 - m. Pre-approved MPD outside training.
 - n. Proof of attendance of a base station from outside Kitsap County.
5. Satisfy annual skill requirements as listed in WAC 246-976-161 f
- a. Verification of skills can be done by completion report by electronic health record **OR**
 - b. Verification can be a demonstration of skill before the Medical Program



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Director or Delegate

1. Endotracheal tube for pediatric and adult patients.
2. Vascular Access

6. Maintain a current CPR, ACLS and PALS healthcare card or equivalent training.

If a provider does not meet active quarterly training outside of a leave of absence, the provider will be removed from the OTEP program for the remainder of their credential period. Once the provider has recertified, the provider may return to the OTEP program.

2. CME Method

Providers may choose the CME method to satisfy educational requirements. If choosing this method, providers must submit a renewal application as outlined in WAC 246-976-162.

If submitting a CME method application, the provider must meet the following requirements:

- a. The provider must submit records to the MPD detailing 30 hours of continuing education corresponding to WAC 246-976-161
- b. The applicant must submit records to the MPD detailing BLS skills corresponding to WAC 246-976-161.
- c. Suitable CME activities from any continuing education program. CE approved by the Committee on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE) is automatically pre-approved for CE on an hour-for-hour basis.
- d. Provider must pass the National Registry EMT cognitive exam.
- e. Maintain a current CPR, ACLS and PALS healthcare card or equivalent training.

C. Recertification Requirements

1. Each candidate for recertification must comply with all Washington State Department of Health requirements.
2. Each candidate for recertification must meet the following additional requirements set forth by the MPD:
 - a. Compliance with the *ALS Protocol Testing* policy.
 - b. Maintenance of a current ACLS by completing a certified ACLS or **equivalent** standing course once every two years.



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- c. Maintenance of a current PALS by completing a certified PALS or **equivalent** standing course once every two years.
- d. Current CPR healthcare card or equivalent training.
- e. Completion of a Kitsap County EMS Paramedic Skills Lab at least once per 3-year recertification cycle and as necessary to meet the required skills verification to meet 246-976-161.
- f. Completion of a Kitsap County EMS Paramedic Advanced Airway Course once per 3-year recertification cycle.
- g. Attendance of 12 base Station presentations per three-year recertification cycle.
- h. Shall listen to all Physician Delegate Lecture Series in the calendar year as assigned.
- i. Sixty hours of "your choice" educational activities must be completed during the three-year certification cycle.
- j. Distributive Education through KCEMS's learning management system, as assigned.
- k. Skill verification or demonstration as required per WAC 246-976-161

D. Application Process

1. All recertification applications must be completed online. The *Recertification Application* online form (available from the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System website) must be completed **NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE PROVIDER'S CURRENT CERTIFICATION** and provided to the sponsoring agency.
2. After verifying all training compliance in Section IV A2 has been met, the sponsoring agency will submit the online Recertification Application to the Kitsap County EMS (KCEMS) Office for final review, **NO LATER THAN 45 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE PROVIDER'S CURRENT CERTIFICATION.**
3. The Medical Program Director (or his designee) will perform an education audit on all applications for training completeness prior to submitting them to the Department of Health.
4. Once the application is complete and all requirements are met, The KCEMS Office Administrator will obtain the MPD's electronic signature, who will forward the application to the Washington State Department of Health.