

## PA EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Your Regional EMS Council has developed this brochure to assist you in understanding and interpreting the PA EMS Continuing Education (CE) Program. This brochure is intended to provide general guidance and should not be construed as a part of the EMS Act or Regulations. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

**What is Continuing Education (CE)?** Continuing Education for pre-hospital personnel is defined in EMS regulations as “those learning activities intended to build upon the education and experiential basis of pre-hospital EMS personnel for the enhancement of practice, education, administration, research or theory development, to strengthen the quality of care provided.” CE is a method used by many healthcare professionals to maintain licensure or certification.

Continuing education credits in Pennsylvania are categorized as either “Clinical Patient Care (formerly known as: Medical/Trauma)” or “Core (Required protocol updates or other BEMS required courses)” and “Other”.

**What is the difference between “Clinical Patient Care” or “Core” and “Other” ?** Clinical patient care education focuses on the care, including assessment, of an individual who is believed to be sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated and helpless and in need of immediate medical attention. Clinical Patient Care CE includes all clinical aspects of patient care. Core education CE’s are required courses by the BEMS such as protocol updates or any other mandatory training pertaining to EMS providers in PA. Topics such as: response planning, legal aspects, communications, documentation, hazardous materials, EVDT, or other operational issues. These items would be considered CE in the “other” category.

Credit hours will be granted for portions of a course that relate to the prehospital practitioner’s scope of practice. **Note: Not every continuing education class is recognized as hour-for hour credit, please check with the con-ed class sponsor for details before you attend the class.**

Continuing Education can be completed in a classroom setting, at our EMS Update conference held annually at Seven Springs, through any program approved in advance for CE credit, or online on the TRAIN PA Learning Management System. Con-Ed requirements must be done **BEFORE** your expiration date. **There is no grace period** and only active military personnel can request an extension.

## UPDATES TO THE PA EMS REGISTRY <https://ems.health.state.pa.us/emsportal>

\* **Update personal information-** You now have the capability to update your address, county, phone number, email, level of education under the General Information tab. Make sure you save all changes after updating.

\* **Enter CPR status-** It is now the EMS provider’s responsibility to enter and update their CPR completion information. You can find the CPR data fields to under the EMS Application tab mid page. Enter the issue date, expiration date, type of course, training center, and instructor. Uploading an image of your completion card is encouraged but not mandatory. A complete list of approved CPR courses can be found at [emswest.org](http://emswest.org) under the education and certification tab.

\* **Apply for EMSVO credential-** You can apply for the EMSVO credential by answering the two criminal history questions at the bottom of the General Information tab, and then selecting add on under the manage my certifications area. Select EMSVO and then complete the required information under the Driving History tab. You must upload a copy of your driver’s license and EVOT or EVOC certificate before submitting for approval.

\* **Apply for EMS Instructor status-** You can apply for EMS Instructor by answering the two criminal history questions at the bottom of the General Information tab, and then selecting add on under the manage my certifications area. Select EMS Instructor and then complete the required information under the Instructor tab.

\* **Submit Coned by endorsement -** You can submit continuing education by endorsement by going to the Con-Ed tab, scrolling down to the bottom and selecting Add Endorsement. Enter all information in the data fields provided. You also must upload any supportive documentation about the coned being submitted. Pertinent information including length of class, content and completion dates are all important information to include. Submit the coned for review by regional council. Also, under the Coned tab you can review and print your current coned status by clicking the Print Status Report button.

\* **Apply for Re-registration-** You may apply for re-registration as **early as 90 days from your expiration date.** From your General Information page, scroll down to the bottom and answer the 2 criminal history questions, then select Re-register under the Manage my Certifications area. Check the box next to your certification and EMSVO and or Instructor if applicable and select begin re-registration. Confirm the statements provided and check the box next to I want to re-register. Click the Re-register button and confirm your action by selection Ok. Your expiration date should change to the next certification cycle and we are prompted to issue you a new certification card. If you re-register early, you are now able to count any coned completed from that moment on for your next certification cycle.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE VEHICLE OPERATOR (EMSVO): Since 2014

- An EMSVO registration is required to operate ground EMS vehicles for an EMS Agency.
- Continuing education credits are required based upon the providers EMS Certification cycle in topics pertaining to operating an emergency vehicle. Providers on a 2-year cycle require 2 hours of driving con-ed, providers on a 3-year cycle require 3 hours of driving con-ed.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR): Since 2014

— Sixteen (16) hours CE over 3 years.

- At least twelve (12) hours of the sixteen (16) hours must be clinical patient care (formerly known as: medical/trauma) or core education.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT): Since 2014

— Twenty-four (24) hours CE over 3 years.

- At least eighteen (18) hours of the twenty-four (24) hours must be clinical patient care (formerly known as: medical/trauma) or core education.

## ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (AEMT), PARAMEDIC, PHRN, PHPE & PHP: Since 2014

— Thirty-six (36) hours CE over 2 years.

- At least twenty-seven (27) hours of the thirty-six (36) hours must be patient care (formerly known as: medical/trauma) or core education.



## PA EMS REGISTRY SYSTEM

The PA EMS Registry System is a web-based application where each pre-hospital provider's certification related information is securely managed by the PA DOH and is the official record of certification information for providers.

This program includes your official Con-Ed record including CPR dates. Providers now have access to their certification information 24/7.

You can also search for continuing education classes being held in your area.

<https://ems.health.state.pa.us/emsportal>

## PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC HEALTH LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

TRAIN PA is more than another state-of-the-art platform for finding and taking training because TRAIN PA is more than a learning management system—it is a public health learning management system and network.

“Public health” means that this system will provide training to a broad scope of public health practitioners that will include everyone from emergency medical services personnel to school nurses, from healthcare facility staff to disease outbreak investigators—and everyone in between. No matter what your role in making Pennsylvania a safer, healthier place to live, you'll find training to support this role on TRAIN PA.

“Learning management system” is what PA Prepared was and also what TRAIN PA is now—an online repository of training that allows you to find and track your learning. While the systems will look different and may even function differently at times, both PA Prepared and the new TRAIN PA are both learning management systems. “The best part is: this experience is free of charge through your TRAIN PA user account. Simply enter your user account in TRAIN PA it is your key to the latest, most expansive catalog of public health, disaster, health care, emergency management and preparedness training in the United States today. It's an exciting time to be part of this innovative change!

<https://pa.train.org>



## ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

It is the duty of all prehospital personnel to report to the Department of Health, within 30 days, a misdemeanor or felony conviction, or a revocation, suspension or other disciplinary sanction of a certificate or other authorization to practice a health care profession or occupation.

**Conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs:** When an individual's driver's license has been suspended for a conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the person is prohibited from driving an ambulance for a period of four years and must successfully repeat an emergency vehicle operator's course (EVDT) of instruction approved by the Department.

**Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs:** When an individual is placed into an ARD program for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the individual is not convicted of a crime. However, ARD does result in the suspension of the individual's driving privileges for the period of time mandated by the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75. The individual will not be permitted to drive an ambulance for two years from the date that the suspension started and must repeat an emergency vehicle operator's course (EVDT) of instruction approved by the Department before being permitted to drive an ambulance.

**Reckless Driving or other moving violations:** When an individual's driver's license has been suspended for reckless driving or other moving violations of the vehicle code, the person is prohibited from driving an ambulance for a period of two years and must successfully repeat an emergency vehicle operator's course (EVDT) of instruction approved by the Department.

**Other driver's license suspension:** When an individual's driver's license has been suspended for other reasons not listed above, the Department will consider a request for an exception as provided by 28 Pa. Code §1001.4(a) through (f).



This edition of the Provider Resource Brochure was published in April 2018. Requirements in this brochure may change and we encourage providers to contact their Regional EMS Council to determine if a more recent publication is available.

# EMS Provider Resource Brochure



**Pittsburgh Office:**  
1002 Church Hill Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
Phone: 412-242-7322  
Fax: 412-787-2340

**Kersey Office:**  
1411 Million Dollar Highway  
Kersey, PA 15846  
Phone: 814-834-9212  
Fax: 814-781-3881

*Your Regional EMS Council has been designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of EMS and is responsible for overseeing EMS activities in the 16 counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Potter, Washington and Westmoreland along with emergency planning, response and mitigation for significant incidents throughout Western Pennsylvania.*