



Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of EMS & Highway Safety

www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/emergency-preparedness-response/ems



Emergency Medical Systems

Continuing Education / Relicensure Recommendations APPROVED by EMS Education Committee 1-22-24

Continuing education for all EMS clinicians must meet or exceed the criteria listed in the IDPH EMS Rules Sections 515.560 EMT Continuing Education; 515.570 A-EMT and EMT-I Continuing Education; 515.580 Paramedic Continuing Education; and 515.590 EMS Personnel License Renewals as well as CE that may be mandated by law, rule, or guideline for EMS clinicians (Example: Alzheimer education).

Illinois Minimum CE hours required in 4 years: Paramedics/PHRNs: 100 | A-EMTs/EMT-Is: 80 | EMTs: 60 | ECRNs: 32

CE Approval: System and agency-sponsored continuing education classes, seminars or other programs shall be approved by the Department (IDPH) before being offered to EMS personnel. See EMS rules for application procedure (site code request process). Content must be consistent with the EMS education standards for the appropriate license level. Commercial CE, webinars, or seminars/conferences sponsored by other agencies and entities shall be approved by the EMS MD and should have CE hours awarded by the Commission on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE- See <https://www.capce.org/>) or by another official education credentialing center/organization.

The Continuing Education (CE) options below are NOT intended to be all-inclusive. A wide variety of educational offerings that are not listed may also meet the intent of national, state, and local standards for EMS continuing education and **must be considered and approved by the local EMS MD and IDPH**

Max hours per subject area: May not exceed 20% of total hours for one general subject area. Educators may not get credit for presenting the same topic/lecture multiple times.

Standard Documentation required to validate completion: CE certificate, course card, or paper or electronic roster verified by instructor or authorizing person to include: name of participant; date; times; topic(s); number of CE hours awarded; Illinois site code, CAPCE and/or medical or nursing accrediting body number. All CE hours awarded must be approved by the EMS Medical Director or designee.

Local verification: EMS personal must verify the CE requirements within their EMS System(s) of affiliation. EMS System MDs may require their EMS personnel to obtain EMS CE above the minimum requirements outlined in Illinois EMS Administrative Code, Section 515.590.

Optional/voluntary consideration:

National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) (Required for NREMT recertification): The NCCP has three continuing education (CEU) requirement areas: National, State/Local, and Individual. The NREMT sets the requirements for the National portion. State/Local and individual credits must related to EMS Services or EMS patient care. The national component of the NCCP constitutes 50% of the total recertification requirements. Topics included in the national content reflect current trends in evidence-based medicine, scope of practice changes and position papers from numerous associations involved with EMS research. There is an additional focus on those patient presentations that have a low frequency but high criticality acuity. **At least 10% of the National Component must be pediatric-focused content.**



National Component Requirements

Expiration dates through Sept. 30, 2025: [Download the 2016 NCCP Model \(PDF\)](#)

Expiration dates after March 31, 2026: [Download the 2025 NCCP Model \(PDF\)](#)

[\(National Continued Competency Program | National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians \(nremt.org\)\)](#)

Courses that cannot be applied towards NREMT recertification requirements include duplicate courses, clinical rotations, EMS instructor courses, management/leadership courses, performance of duty, preceptor hours, serving as a skill examiner, and volunteer time with agencies. If you have questions on accepted education, please review the NREMT Recertification Guide (link above).

Activity		Documentation	Max Hours Recommended	Comments
Initial standardized “Life Support” courses (Provider level) (Traditional or adaptive learning approaches)			Hr/Hr to max recommended by sponsoring entity for each course	
Cardiology				
CPR-HCP	CPR for Healthcare Professional	Standard	4 hr	
ACLS	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	Standard	10 hr / course	
ALS	Advanced life support content	Standard	5 hr / yr 20 hrs in 4 yrs	PM, PHRN, PHAPRN, PHPA
Medical				
AMLS	Advanced Medical Life Support	Standard	16	
EMPACT	Emergency Medical Patients: Assessment, Care and Transport	Standard	16	
ASLS	Advanced Stroke Life Support	Standard	8	
ENLS	Emergency Neurological Life Support	Standard	15	
Special Populations				
PALS	Pediatric Advanced Life Support		12	
APLS	Advanced Pediatric Life Support		14	
PEARS	Pediatric Emergency, Recognition and Stabilization		8	
NRP	Neonatal Resuscitation Program		8	
PEPP	Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (ALS)		12	
EPC	Emergency Pediatric Course		16	
GEMS	Geriatric Education for EMS		8	
Trauma				
ABLS	Advanced Burn Life Support			
ATLS	Advanced Trauma Life Support (ALS)			PM, PHRN, PHAPRN, PHPA
ITLS	International Trauma Life Support		16	
PHTLS	Prehospital Trauma Life Support		16	
	Stop the Bleed course			
	Tactical Casualty Combat Care – Military Personnel			
	Will specify individual classes			
	Wilderness EMS Training, TEMS			Hr/Hr for EMS content of course
Initial standardized “Life Support” (Instructor course)		Standard	Hr/Hr to max recommended by sponsoring entity	
Standardized “Life Support” courses renewal		Standard	Hr/Hr to max recommended by sponsoring entity	
CPR/ACLS/PALS/NRP frequent ongoing competency with rolling renewal if using RQI		Standard	Hr/Hr to max recommended by AHA	
ADDITIONAL Sources OF CE				
Attending/Teaching , MIH Community PM, Critical Care PM		Standard	Hr/Hr to max recommended by sponsoring entity	
Pediatric related CE		Standard	At least 10% of total CE hours required	Illinois recommends at least 10% of total required hours in 4 yrs are related to pediatric patients. Topics include: Pediatrics, Neonatology, Gynecology and Obstetrics.
Initial courses: Emergency Vehicle Operators course,		Standard	Hr/Hr up to	

Activity	Documentation	Max Hours Recommended	Comments
		12 hrs max	
Locally offered CE Examples of approved offerings:	Standard	Hr/Hr to max subject hours	May not exceed 20% of total minimum required hours in one general subject area, e.g., cardiac, trauma, medical, rescue, etc.
Local credentialing (System entry) activities	Standard	"	
Local orientation/onboarding; equipment competency education/labs	Standard	"	
After action reports, debriefs	Standard	"	
Quality improvement case reviews	Standard	"	
Agency-sponsored CE w/ site codes	Standard	"	
High fidelity simulations/scenarios	Standard	"	
Virtual task trainers and virtual simulations	Standard	"	
Microlearning modules of EBGs w/ posttest/assessment	Standard	"	
Bloodborne Pathogens course in compliance with the 2023 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation 29 CFR 1910.1030. Online Training acceptable See https://www.nationaloshafoundation.com/	Standard	1 hour/year	
Mandated reporter status: Free online education available from DCSF: See https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action	Standard	2 hrs/year	
CHEMPACK Program & the State of Illinois CHEMPACK Plan/EMS Stockpile: Instructional materials available on the IDPH website. See: https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/emergency-preparedness-response/public-health-care-system-preparedness.html	Standard	1 hour/year	
For license renewals occurring on or after January 1, 2023, EMS personnel must complete at least a one one-hour course on the diagnosis, treatment, and care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias per license renewal period.	Standard	1 hr in 4 years	This training shall include, but not be limited to, assessment and diagnosis, effective communication strategies, and management and care planning. Public Act 102-0772 https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/102/PDF/102-0772.pdf
Audit of entry level EMT, AEMT, Paramedic courses	Standard	Hr/Hr to max content hours	Unlimited hours if subject matter is at the appropriate level for the participant's license. May not exceed 20% of total required hours in one subject area, e.g., cardiac, trauma, rescue, etc.
Author/editor/instructor of educational offerings related to EMS care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author of modules/ presentations/ other media • Author of journal article/ book chapter(s) • Journal/book reviewer Textbook editor • Creator of poster presentation Author of an unpublished thesis • Instructor for EMS-related subject at your license level • Preceptor to EMS students/personnel 	Signed letter from EMSC or lead instructor; see right.	Hr/Hr to max hrs locally allowable	<u>Submit a copy of the article, chapter, or presentation for credit consideration Submit summary and photo of poster project</u> <u>Submit evidence of participation as an instructor in the form of student handouts prepared and a brochure or written statement from the course coordinator verifying the topics and hours of participation.</u>
Emergency Preparedness activities include completing FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training, participating in emergency preparedness planning activities, and/or a System-recognized exercise and/or after action critique.	Written statement of participation from EMSC/EMS MD or exercise director.	Hr/Hr up to 12 hrs (ALS clinician 10 hrs (A-EMT/EMT-I) 8 hrs (EMT)	<u>EMS personnel must be able to demonstrate an active participating role during the preparedness event, exercise or training.</u>

Activity	Documentation	Max Hours Recommended	Comments
College courses: Courses that relate to the role of an EMS professional (A&P, assessment, physiology, biology, chemistry, microbiology, pharmacology, psychology, sociology, nursing/PA courses, Communication/Speech, etc.)	Syllabus or catalogue description of course and evidence of successful completion (minimum grade of C on official transcripts or evidence from school)	<i>Hr/Hr 1 college credit = 8 CEU</i>	May not exceed 20% of total hours for one subject area. Should be considered on a case by case basis for any topics in EMS education standards.
Participation/observation in surgery, physical therapy, childbirth, autopsy, etc.	Written statement of participation from: preceptor or physician validating attendance	Hr/Hr up to max of 5 hrs/licensure period	Max 5 hours; must be part of an approved educational experience or include defined educational objectives.
Seminars/Conferences: EMS related education approved by CAPCE or medical or nursing accrediting body	Copy of agenda/program plus certificate of attendance	Hr/Hr to max content hrs	May not exceed 20% of total minimum required hours in one subject area, e.g., cardiac, trauma, rescue, etc.
Commercial CE: Electronic digital media, journal articles with publication dates of 5 years or less prior to the date of CE completion. Approved by CAPCE or medical or nursing accrediting body	Standard	Hr/Hr to max content hrs	May not exceed 20% of total minimum required hours in one subject area, e.g., cardiac, trauma, rescue, etc.
Trauma Nurse Specialist or TNS Review Courses: May audit for CE with prior approval of TNS Course Coordinator to ensure space availability	Standard	Hr/Hr to max content hrs	May not exceed 20% of total minimum required hours in one subject area. Course covers multiple areas of A&P, fluid & electrolytes, acid base balance, shock pathophysiology and systems trauma appropriate for PMs and PHRNs for full credit.
ECRN Course (apart from Life Support courses): May audit for CE with prior approval of Course Lead Instructor to ensure space availability	Standard	Hr/Hr to max content hrs	May not exceed 20% of total minimum required hours in one subject area. Course may cover multiple across the spectrum of EMS appropriate for PMs and PHRNS for full credit
On-line options: Webinars and on-line offerings with subject matter found in the EMS Education Standards [e.g. sponsored by a governmental agency (infectious diseases, emergency preparedness); legal experts (documentation; HIPAA); organizations or commercial offerings].	Standard	Hr/Hr to max content hrs	May not exceed 20% of total minimum required hours in one subject area,

Illinois recommended Core Content CE hour distribution during each relicensure period. EMS System MDs may require alternate EMS CE based on local QAPI data and additional hours above the minimum requirements as outlined in the Illinois EMS Administrative Code, Section 515.590 (EMT Licensure Renewal).

Suggested IL CE Hr distribution (optional – subject to local EMS MD approval)						
Topic area	PM	AEMT	EMT	ECRN	PM NR	PM NR %
Airway, Respiratory	20	16	12	6	6/30	0.2
Cardiology	23	19	14	8	7/30	0.233
Medical	27	21	16	8	8/30	0.267
Trauma	17	13	10	6	5/30	0.167
Operations	13	11	8	4	4/30	0.133
Total Hrs IL	100/4 yrs	80 / 4y	60 / 4y	32 / 4y	NREMT 30/ 2 yrs	