

Policy Statement:

All emergency medical services courses leading to a National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification, or a Vermont EMS license or certification, must have oversight by a course medical director who is a licensed physician with sufficient emergency medicine experience to verify the medical accuracy of the emergency medical services course and assess the knowledge, skills, and affective competency of emergency medical services students.

Authority:

EMS Rule 9.1.2:

Physician medical oversight must be obtained for each course for the purpose of ensuring medical accuracy of the course content.

Procedure:

The course instructor must select an emergency medical physician to provide oversight of the course. The course medical director is the course's ultimate medical authority. They are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and quality of the course content, and for verifying the knowledge, skills, and affective competency of each student before the student is approved for NREMT certification or Vermont EMS licensure or certification.

The course medical director serves as the instructor's liaison with the broader medical community in two important ways. One is by bringing in specialists where appropriate to provide deeper medical knowledge or context to the course content. The other is to assist the course instructor with establishing clinical affiliations with medical facilities for courses that require a clinical internship.

Rationale:

Emergency medical services is a specialized field with many considerations not found in other areas of health care. Emergency medicine involves urgently assessing and treating ailments in potentially unpredictable conditions. The nature of pre-hospital emergency medicine requires its practitioners to think quickly, independently, and critically to diagnose and treat patients with minimal supervision. Therefore, an EMS practitioner's training must be directed by a clinician with a strong understanding of the unique aspects of field-based emergency medical treatment.

Effective Date:

April 12, 2023