

Integrating Continuing Education Credits to a Collegiate EMS Training Model



David Gordon^{1,2}, EMT; Maya Ganeshan¹, EMT; Eugene Janda³, MES, CFPS, NFPA; Laura Farrington³

¹ University of Pennsylvania, Medical Emergency Response Team

² Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps

³ University of Pennsylvania, Division of Public Safety, Fire & Emergency Services

Introduction

MERT EMT Recertification Prior to Program

- Frequent turnover reduced MERT's ability to mentor EMTs through their EMT recertifications
- EMT's need to recertify every 2-3 years with requirements varying by state and licensing agency
 - Pennsylvania requires 24 hours of continuing education within 2 years
 - Ex:* An EMT who earns license spring of their freshman year will need to recertify in the spring of their junior year
 - 18 hours must be clinical patient core hours
 - Remaining 6 hours are electives
- Historically, few EMTs ended up recertifying or maintaining licenses post-graduation
- The EMTs who recertified tended to work with outside EMS services
 - Outside services sponsored their CME training
- MERT did not have access to an EMS Teaching Certificate
 - For PA, teaching certificate needed to access Regionally-Pre Approved courses
 - Without certificate, courses would need to be developed individually by endorsement

MERT Training Program

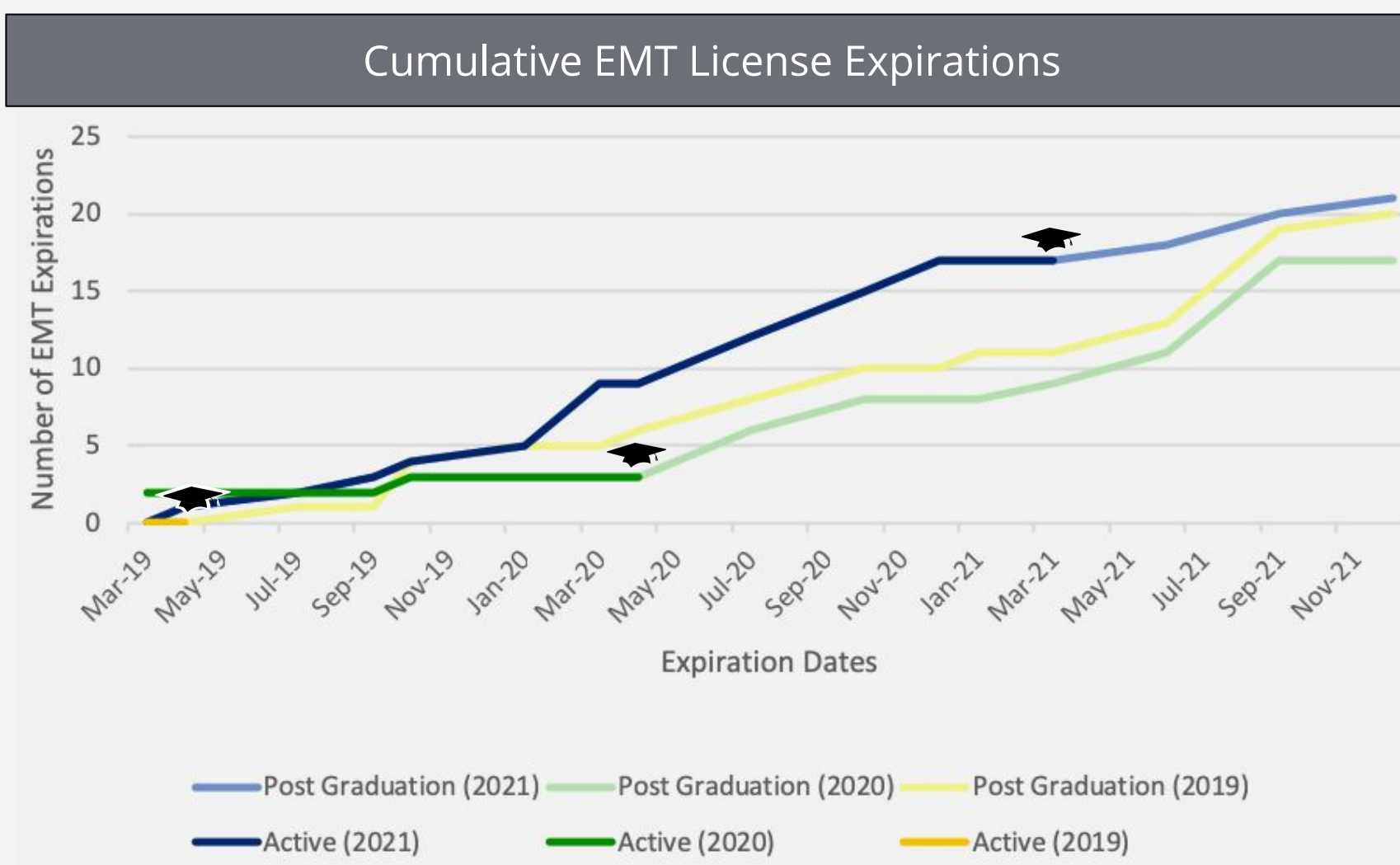
Alert incoming members of the idea of recertification even within the initial orientation

Propose topics that are both relevant to Penn MERT and are covered as topics for CEUs to go over in trainings

Recruit instructors and guest speakers with expertise on particular process

Run recertification workshops for collegiate EMT's to explain the process and and items that they have or will already complete

MERT License Expirations



Division of Public Safety EMS Teaching Accreditation Certificate



- The Division of Public Safety's EMS teaching certificate, which enables the Division of Public Safety to endorse EMS training
 - Teaching certificate needs 5 courses over 3 year accreditation cycle
 - Each course has a listed instructor and all EMTs complete course eval afterwards
- Fire & Emergency Services provides logistical support for EMS training certificate
 - Chief Eugene Janda reviews EMS training plan
 - Coordinator Laura Farrington is involved with regional approval and roster entry

With the Training Officer, Division of Public Safety, Health System, and experienced Crew Chiefs EMTs, Penn MERT has the capacity to offer CEUs to its providers.

Objective

Develop a **logistically feasible system** to **integrate continuing medical education credit units into collegiate EMS training syllabus** and allow providers to more readily recertify

Development & Implementation

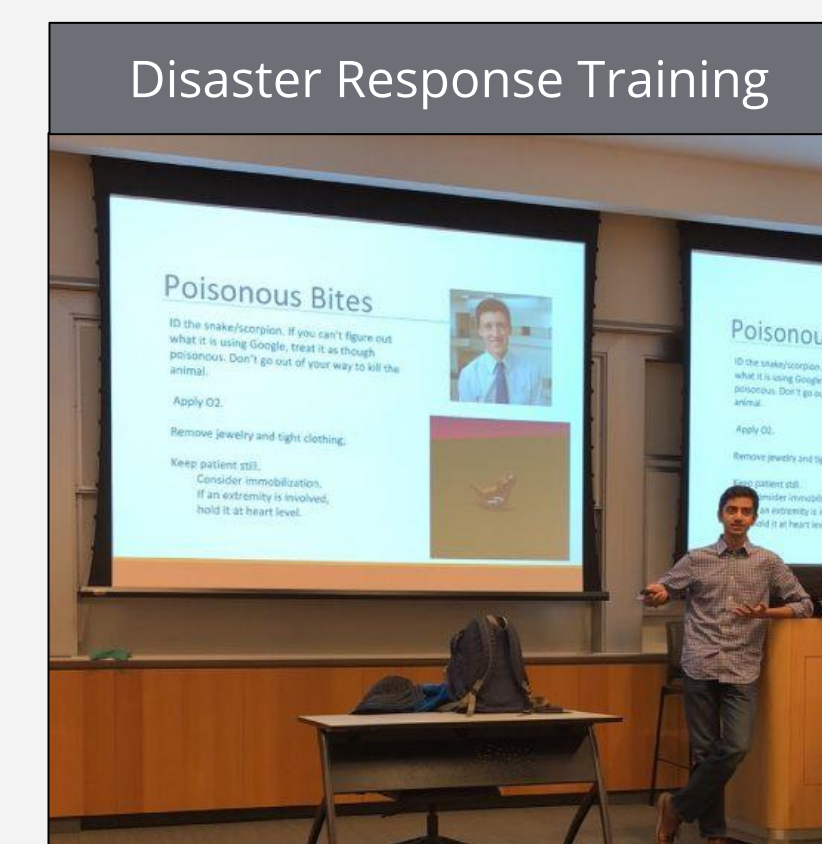
Training Curriculum



Emily Hancin, NREMT, EMT-B Training Coordinator



Dr. Jon Barr Emergency Medicine Resident

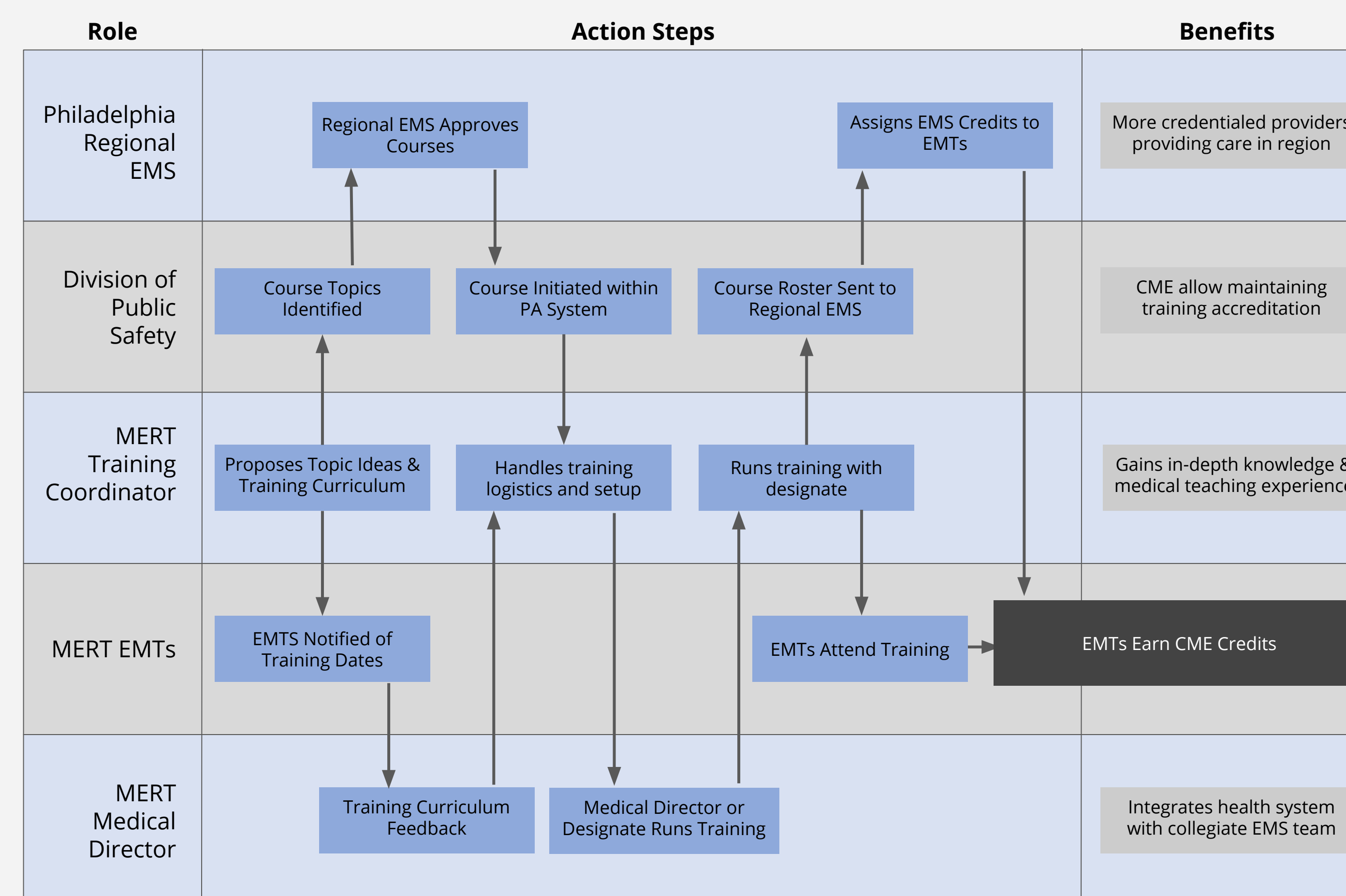


Abhishek Rao, NREMT, EMT-B Disaster Response Coordinator

- Training syllabus influenced by call composition, provider's strengths and weaknesses, and important clinical topics
- Guest speakers are often recruited to provide further expertise and ability to dive into a topic
- MERT works closely with its Medical Director to review and approve training syllabus semesterly and match experts to each training

Step by Step Flowchart

- EMT's must have enough core patient contact hours, which includes anything that requires medical assessment
- For collegiate EMT group, 4 CEU's completed a semester is enough to recertify the student EMTs who joined their Freshman year
- One cannot receive credit for the same course more than once in a recertification cycle



Evaluation

CEU program has successfully been implemented over multiple trainings with **plans to expand offerings** and **meet long-term requirements** for providers to recertify

CME Utilization

6 CME Trainings Completed (2018):

- Diabetic Emergencies
- Mental Health Procedures for EMS
- Medical, Legal & Ethical
- Stop the Bleed Training
- Head Injuries
- Mass Casualty Incident Management

MERT is planning to sponsor 7 CEUs this semester:

- Allergies & Asthma
- Trauma
- Orthopedics & Splinting
- Behavioral Emergencies
- Head Injuries
- Opioids Response
- Pregnancy & Childbirth

MERT Sponsored & Intercollegiate EMS Symposium in (Nov 2018) with 6 CME attended by MERT, Drexel EMS, Temple EMS, and UPPD



Conclusions

EMTs are remaining involved into their third and fourth years of their undergraduate career

Providers, in theory, can recertify on time just by attending agency specific training

This model for embedded credits helps collegiate EMS organizations retain providers beyond their initial license expiration

References & Acknowledgements

References

- 35 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. § 8115 (2009)
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (2017). National Continued Competency Program: Training Officers Guide. NREMT

Acknowledgements

The Penn Division of Public Safety, University Administration, and MERT Advisory Team are instrumental in supporting the MERT program:

Maureen Rush, Vice President for Public Safety & Chief of Police, **Gene Janda**, Chief, Fire and Emergency Services, **Mike Fink**, Deputy Chief of Tactical & Emergency Readiness, **Josh Glick**, Penn MERT Medical Director, **Val Swain Cade McCullum**, Vice Provost of University Life, **Erika Gross**, Chief Operating Officer For Wellness, **Benoit Dube**, Chief Executive Officer for Wellness & Associate Vice-Provost, **Ben Evans**, Executive Director of Risk Management & Insurance, **Wendy White**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Medicine, **Joe Tierney**, Executive Director, Robert A. Fox Leadership Program, **Noelle Melartin**, Director for the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Program

Contact

Please direct correspondence to:
David Gordon davgor@sas.upenn.edu MERT Leadership Team chief@penmert.org