

Integrating Continuing Education Credits to a Collegiate EMS Training Model

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POSTER PRESENTATION ABSTRACT | PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION CATEGORY

Introduction: Ongoing continuing medical education (CME) is an important consideration for collegiate EMS programs because an EMT may need to recertify (every 2 or 3 years) during their collegiate EMS tenure. At the same time, the frequent turnover of training leadership roles may prevent students from being state-certified EMS instructors. In Pennsylvania, providers need 24 pre-approved online or in-person CME hours to recertify, which providers may complete independently from agency-specific training.

Program Development & Implementation: The University of Pennsylvania Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) develops 10-15 student-led training drills per academic semester, which each EMT attends. Those unable to attend are required to complete Pennsylvania-CME online to make up the missed training. MERT sought a solution that positively encouraged EMTs to attend agency-specific training while providing CME in a matter logistically feasible for collegiate EMS agencies. For training drills, MERT recruited paramedics from Public Safety and physicians from the University Health System to assist in planning and mentoring students on a range of EMS topics. MERT leveraged a close partnership with the Division of Public Safety's Fire and Emergency Services (FES) and their regional-EMS teaching certificate agency to actuate the CME training sessions. Following drills, the training coordinator works closely with FES to submit CME credit approval paperwork to regional-EMS.

Program Evaluation: In October 2018, MERT piloted the CMEs and organized a symposium with 6 guest speakers attended by 50 providers from 4 collegiate EMS agencies. With plans to integrate at least 8 CME credits into MERT's training semester curriculum, providers who attended each required training will complete all credits necessary to recertify. So far, most providers elected to enroll in the CMEs.

Discussion/Conclusions: Other collegiate EMS agencies may potentially be able to utilize teaching certificates from their hospitals and public safety to adapt their training programs for members to ensure compliance with the CME licensing requirements.

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