SOG 39: Village of Owego EMS Department THREE YEAR CME-BASED RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Adopted: Changed: Effective:

Change Effective: 09 11 2024

Administered by:

Owego Emergency Squad

NYS DOH EMS Agency #5317 Program Overview and Responsibilities

The Purpose:

This program is designed to permit an active CFR, EMT-Basic, EMT-Advanced, EMT-Critical Care, or EMT-Paramedic (pre hospital provider) to recertify to practice prehospital medicine as an extension of the medical director of Owego EMS., so as to limit legal liability to the pre-hospital provider, Physician and Agency, to reasonably assure that the pre-hospital provider maintains at least a minimal level of competency necessary for safe practice, and to protect the health and welfare of the community.

 These policies will outline and direct the operations of the New York State Continuing Medical Education Based EMT Re-certification Program (CME Program), at Owego EMS located at PO Box 22, Owego NY 13827-0022

Definitions, Rules & Responsibilities:

Agency & Agency Code:

Village of Owego EMS Department (Owego EMS) is currently assigned the NYS DOH EMS Agency Code of 5317 and as such is recognized by the NYS DOH as a NYS certified EMS Ambulance Agency.

CME Coordinator:

The CME Coordinator is a designated member who will oversee continuing education in accordance with NYS DOH policy, as well as the Owego EMS guidelines. It is the policy of Owego EMS that Paul Cole. will be designated as the CME Coordinator, Owego EMS Training Officer. Micheal "J" Roden (EMT Number 178932) will be appointed as Assistant CME Coordinator, Assistant Owego EMS Training Officer.

If there is a permanent change in either the Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator, the new person shall be responsible for notifying the NYS DOH within 30 days and submitting updated paperwork as required. The Chief shall be responsible for notifying the membership of the change in status.

The CME Coordinator and the Assistant CME Coordinator will:

Ensure pre-hospital providers are in good standing with Owego EMS Bylaws and compliant with Susquehanna Regional EMS SREMS' Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC), (ALS pre-hospital providers only)

- Ensure all training records are maintained and filed in accordance with Owego EMS policy and NYS DOH rules & regulations
- Ensure that all CME Recertification training meets DOH requirements
- Track (normal delegation is to the Image Trend administrator) the progress of all CME Program participants, reviewing at regular intervals with the participant their progress, and (if need be) notifying the Participant in a timely manner that they will be unable to renew their certification via CME and must complete a NYS DOH Traditional Refresher Program
 - Notification of certification expiration is achieved by
 - Image Trend log in screen for PCR generation
 - Public posting (at station) of pre-hospital provider certification expiration dates
 - Email Reminders
- Properly prepare, verify and submit all Owego EMS CME Program paperwork to the DOH Bureau of EMS
- Properly prepare, verify and submit all vouchers for payment to the DOH Bureau of EMS
- In addition to any other duties needed.

Medical Direction:

Owego EMS Medical Director under normal circumstances, assumes the roles and responsibilities as outlined below:

- The Medical Director shall ensure that the training classes and training courses that are held by Owego EMS are appropriate and pertain to the emergency medical services
- The Medical Director in concert with the training officer and/or CIC shall ensure that the content and material presented for training is medically sound and pertinent to the curriculum
- The Medical Director shall follow the procedures within the NYS DOH
 CME Program for evaluating and attesting to a participant's continued
 skill competency and shall include all skills as outlined by the NYS DOH

- The Medical Director shall be notified when a participant has a status change from this program
- The Medical Director, working in concert with the CME Coordinator, the Assistant CME Coordinator and Owego EMS Chief, shall be jointly responsible for ensuring that all paperwork submitted to the DOH Bureau of EMS for recertification and or other business pertaining to the CME Program shall be within the policies and guidelines of the CME Program
- The Medical Director will work with agency personnel to strive to provide consistency of pre-hospital emergency medical care across all the operating territory and surrounding areas
- The Medical Director understands that his/her contact point into the Owego EMS CME Program is the CME Coordinator, and secondarily, the Assistant CME Coordinator, and that the CME matters should come before the Medical Director (MD) only via the CME Coordinator, and/or the Assistant CME Coordinator and should any CME matter come before the MD by other means, the MD will contact the CME Coordinator or the Assistant CME Coordinator before taking any action on the matter.

Program Participant:

Program participants are any agency members or employees that are eligible for and have enrolled in the CME Program.

 Participant <u>must</u> remain in good standing with Owego EMS and the respective REMAC and have remained in "continuous practice*" as defined by NYS DOH.

Transfer of Records (in and out):

Transferring IN:

In the event a new member joins Owego EMS and is a participant in the NYS CME Program with another agency but wishes to transfer to **Owego EMS** he or she may participate.

The transferring participant must:

- 1. Provide on previous agency letterhead, verification from their CME coordinator all education topics and hours earned that can be tracked from that agency's training records.
- 2. Copies only (not originals) of training certificates, topic outlines, and attendance records to be included with verification letter.

Transferring OUT:

A pre-hospital provider who is currently participating in the CME program with Owego EMS and wishes to transfer their participation to another agency can request and will receive from the CME coordinator a letter on Owego EMS letterhead outlining all training within that participant's training file, including topics of study, hours earned, and skill practice. The participant may copy all training files as needed. The participant transferring out CAN NOT take with them the original

training documents. A copy of any electronic files for electronic record keeping will also be given to the pre-hospital provider transferring out.

• *"Continuous Practice" -

Participation in the New York State DOH Bureau of EMS 3-year CME recertification program requires that a participant remain in continuous practice. Continuous practice is defined by Owego EMS as a NYS DOH certified pre-hospital provider who in addition to participating in continuing medical education, also responds to emergency and/or non-emergency requests for medical assistance representing Owego EMS, and on a routine basis provides pre-hospital patient care within their scope of practice as defined by Article 30 PHL and Title X NYCRR Part 800 during the recertification cycle up to and including the period of time that the recertification application has been submitted.

Proof of active participation with patient care must be verifiable through run reports and PCR's within the 3-year cycle prior to recertification.

- Current on NYS BLS Protocols
- Current on NYS ALS Protocols (If applicable)

• Removal from the CME Recertification Program:

A member's participation in the CME Program may be restricted or revoked at anytime with cause.

- Reasons for restricting, suspending, or revoking participation in the CME Recertification Program may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:
 - Falsifying CME records, such as:
 - Classes attended
 - Duration of classes attended
 - Topic of classes attended, etc
 - Failure to demonstrate proficiency at a skill after sufficient remediation,
 - Failure to complete assignments for any CME class,
 - Failure to participate in a CME class, topic, or evaluation,
 - Insubordination related to the CME Recertification Program only,
 - Dishonesty related to the CME Recertification Program only,
 - Inappropriate conduct during a CME class, lab or evaluation,

- A change of status in membership/employment (change to "inactive" or resignation from Owego EMS.),
- Failure to meet defined "continuous practice",
- Failure to remain in good standing with the respective REMAC.
- Failure to demonstrate proficiency in the field.
- If a Program Participant is removed from the CME Recertification Program for any of the above reasons.
 - The pre-hospital provider is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of their NYS certification. It is understood that a pre-hospital provider may not and will not practice without current NYS DOH certification. It is the responsibility of the pre-hospital provider to refresh their certification by any other appropriate means. The CME Coordinator will assist the prehospital provider in determining and initiating other available options.
 - A participant withdrawal form will be completed with cause for termination from program noted and placed in participant's file folder.

Expiration Dates

- This is the date affixed to the NYS DOH Certification Card, which
 denotes the end of the pre-hospital provider's certification. This can be
 verified in the NYS Healthcare Commerce system.
- Participants are ultimately responsible for maintaining NYS DOH certification and monitoring the expiration date of that certification.
- The CME Coordinator will also monitor the expiration dates of the participant's certification. However, preparing for recertification by any means remains the responsibility of the pre-hospital provider cardholder.

Owego EMS and the CME Coordinators are there to assist individuals achieve recertification.

- The CME Coordinator, and the Assistant Coordinator, or designee will notify all members/employees of expiration dates that expire in the next 180 days.
- Every pre-hospital provider, regardless of their CME Program participation is notified as to exactly how many days are remaining on their certifications.

CME Program Paperwork:

- Agency Registration Form (NYS DOH 4227)
 - This is the application for Owego EMS to participate in the CME Program.
- Recertification Forms (NYS DOH 5295 5065, 5067, 5066, 4231)
 - These are the actual applications for renewal of certification. Each form is for a different pre-hospital provider level. These are submitted to the NYS DOH when a participant has completed the requirements of the CME Program and is applying for recertification.
 - The original form (with original ink signatures) is submitted by the CME Coordinator to the NYS DOH, with a copy kept onfile.
- Vouchers (AC-3253s)
 - o For agency use only.
- Administrative Program Participant Form (NYS BEMS)
 - This form (found at the end of the NYS DOH CME Program Administrative Manual) is read and signed by each Program Participant when joining the CME Program, and is filed in the participant's training file.

<u>Submission of Applications for Recertification</u>:

- Applications for recertification may be submitted to the NYS DOH up to nine (9) months before the applicant's certification expires.
- Applications for recertification must be postmarked to the NYS DOH no later than 45 days prior to the applicant's certification expiration date. As such, to allow time for Owego EMS to complete and process the application, participants must complete all CME Program requirements at least 90 days prior to expiration of certification.

The start of the application process.

- The steps of the process are outlined below:
 - Meet with the pre-hospital provider to explain the recertification through CME program versus the taking of an NYS refresher course.
 - Assist pre-hospital provider with completion of the appropriate forms (level of certification) to enroll in program. Forms include

DOH-5295, DOH-5065, DOH-5067, DOH-5066, and DOH-4231.

- Establish participant's file and make copies of any current certifications applicable to program.
- Review and explain the training and education requirements per practicing level of care.
- Map out a plan with enrollee to accomplish goals in a reasonable timetable.
- Periodic communications during application process to review and advise participant on what is lacking to complete requirements for complete recertification documentation.
- The CME Coordinator will then present the completed application and supporting documents to the Medical Director for review. Once the CME Coordinator /Assistant CME Coordinator and the Medical Director agree that the participant has completed all requirements for recertification, both will sign the application.
- The CME Coordinator will submit the application for recertification via NYS online CME Portal. The application package shall be uploaded no later than 45 days prior to the participant's current certification expiration date.

Late Application Submissions:

 In the possible event that an application may require late submission to the NYS DOH;

Owego EMS will CONSIDER the submission of late CME Program paperwork
ONLY in the event of a medical or unavoidable circumstance that made an ontime submission impossible. The issue must be documented as per Owego EMS.
policies, and final determination on whether or not to submit the late paperwork
rests with the Board. The Board will not submit an application for an individual
whose certification has lapsed.

• Record / File Maintenance:

- EMS Personnel and CME Participant Records will be kept in a secure filing cabinet that is always kept locked. This cabinet shall be in a designated area of the Owego EMS Operations Room. Access to the files shall be strictly limited to the following personnel:
 - o CME Program Coordinator/EMS Chief.
 - Assistant Program Coordinator/Training Director.
- "Active" Records will be filed in alphabetical order with different colored folders for each EMT certification level. A master list of CME Program participants will be maintained in a separate file folder in the front of file for quick reference. Additionally, the individual program participant's file folder will be flagged in such a manner as to easily identify that individual as a program enrollee.
- "Inactive or Archived" Records A separate section or cabinet drawer will
 be set aside for participants who become inactive or who resign from
 Owego EMS. A different area of the cabinet will be utilized for separation
 of these records. These records will be considered "archived". Records
 recently placed in this area may be re-activated and moved back to
 "Active" file section as required. (Owego EMS adds member, a separate
 file cabinet drawer may be necessary and will be labeled appropriately.)
- "Archived" Records will be maintained for a period of not less than <u>seven</u> years.
- After such time has expired, these records will be destroyed by appropriate shredder methods before final disposal. A Written log of records to be destroyed shall be maintained that clearly states what is being destroyed and applicable dates.
- Records may be reviewed by any participant by contacting the CME
 Coordinator only. In his/her absence, the Assistant CME Coordinator
 may conduct the review. A mutually agreeable appointment time and
 date will then be arranged for the review. Enough notice must be
 afforded to both parties involved. A written log should be made of such
 reviews/meetings and kept in a secure file folder.
- Absolutely No Records will be taken from the Agency Operations office at any time. Copies of records may be made, but such records are given only to the participant and must pertain solely to the individual participant's records or for electronic data entry. Image Trend will be used for electronic record keeping and the certificate be placed in the participant's file. Image Trend offers several layers of data backup.

Record Audits:

 Audits of training records shall occur at least four times per calendar year. These audits shall be conducted by the CME Coordinator and documented.

• Training:

- Training for the CME Program may be obtained in a variety of ways. It should be understood by all participants that this program is designed to ensure EMS healthcare providers remain proficient in their skills and are able to provide competent patient care.
- Owego EMS encourages in person training as in person training is
 offered monthly in house. However, it is understood because of various
 reasons, that in person training cannot be achieved with member's busy
 lives. An in-person training date schedule will be posted at the beginning
 of the year that will be offered, that may change as agency, participant,
 other needs arise.
- In-person training is defined as:
 - Participant physically present at the training
 - Participant participating via live electronic media such as but not limited to Skype, Zoom, Webex, etc.
 - This will be verified by person in charge of training to monitor participants remain present during training and only receive credit for the training attended.

Program participants who wish to apply non-specific or non-traditional training to their CME Program must obtain <u>preauthorization</u> from the CME Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator prior to attending, completing and or receiving credit for such training. The CME Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator must be given enough time to research the training by checking with the Medical Director and NYS DOH.

"Core" Refresher Training:

 Each level of pre-hospital provider is required to complete a specific number of "Core" Refresher Training hours and topics, as specified in the NYS CME Program Administrative Manual. This training must be overseen by an appropriately credentialed NYS Certified Instructor Coordinator (CIC).

Online (Internet) Training:

Participants have access to a wide variety of subjects in the EMS field to
accomplish their goal of continuing education during recertification at
his/her leisure by utilizing educational materials available through selfstudy such as internet (On-line) education. While doing on-line training,
the participant will broaden their knowledge base and gain valuable tools
to utilize during emergency situations. All self-study training including online CME's are limited in the number of CME hours that can be utilized.
 Owego EMS will utilize the training platform and learning management

system, "EMS1 Academy – A Lexipol Solution" for those who require online training beyond our Live training program.

- A maximum of 100% of the total Core Refresher CME's can be self-study.
- A maximum of 100% of mandatory Non-Core Material can be self-study.
- A maximum of 100% of the Non-Core Additional requirements can be self-study.
- On-line Skills practice cannot be applied towards CME recertification. All Self Study CME's must be authorized by CME Coordinator with the approval of the Medical Director and NYS DOH. Again, participant should contact CME Coordinator prior to commencing any online training.
- Because of the expense of online training programs, the program
 participation will be an individualized account. Once an online training
 class is complete, the certificate of completion (PDF copy or printed),
 topic hours, and WITH a training outline will be forwarded to the CME
 coordinator for proper electronic documentation in Image Trend for
 electronic record keeping and the certificate be placed in the participant's
 file. Again, Image Trend offers several layers of data backup.
- Unacceptable documentation, not limited to:
 - "Screen shots" of a list of classes taken, with no backup information IE; certificate of completion, outline, hours participated
 - Any documentation that would cause the participants file not to be audit ready
 - Any documentation rejected by CME coordinator, CIC, or Image Trend electronic data entry person.

Payment for training courses:

- All "Core" Refresher Training classes are provided by Owego EMS at no expense to the participant pre-hospital provider.
- Unless otherwise advertised or pre-arranged by Owego EMS
 Leadership, any tuition or monies needed for enrollment in training, lab
 session, skills review, textbooks, or any other training material that is not
 provided as "Core" Refresher Training by Owego EMS is the sole
 responsibility of the Program Participant.

Acceptable "Non-Core" Additional Continuing Education Material:

- Material that is acceptable for "Non-Core" continuing education is any EMS relevant and patient care related education that builds upon current knowledge or introduces new material. This material must be pertinent and verification of its relationship to the Emergency Medical Services is required.
- This material may include:

- Topics that are relevant to the Emergency Medical Services,
- Didactic study that includes periodic evaluations,
- Introduction of new material, procedures, protocols, or research on existing medical topic,
- Scenario based review and call management,
- Performing research on a related topic,
- Instructing a course or class on a related topic
- Other such academic activity as pre-approved by the CME Coordinator /Assistant Coordinator.

For continuing education to be credited to a participant the following applies:

- The class or CME hours must:
 - Contain objectives,
 - Have direct relevance to EMS,
 - Be approved by a NYS CIC and CME Coordinator.
- The CME hours will be available to all providers.
 - The hours shall be posted or advertised via normal channels for training.
- Material from any outside CME session outside the agency must accompany the participant's CME record for verification. That material must include:
 - Proof of content.
 - Proof of attendance,
 - Proof of participation.

Skill Competency Verification:

- Each pre-hospital provider must demonstrate proficiency in the skills outlined in the NYS CME Program Administrative Manual.
 - These methods will be used to verify skills:
 - Direct observation and documentation by CME Coordinator, Assistant CME Coordinator, NYS CIC, NYS

CLI, or designee using DOH practical skill evaluation sheets,

Certification Verification:

- Any official document (card, certificate, verification letter, etc.) presented to the CME Coordinator or the Assistant CME Coordinator as evidence of completed training must be the original, unaltered, document.
- Copies, unless they are official copies noted as such and issued by the training provider, will not be accepted.
- All documents must be verifiable. Any document which the CME
 Coordinator cannot authenticate by directly contacting and verifying with
 the document's issuer will not be accepted.
- This includes, but is not limited to:
 - NYS DOH certificates
 - CPR / ACLS / AHA / PHTLS certificates/credentials
 - CME credit verification letters
 - · Any other such related document.

Documentation of Training:

- NYS DOH requires proof of:
 - Attendance "Prove you were there,"
 - Participation Pre/ post test results, course materials, etc.,
 - Content Curriculum outline

- Must include All of The Following Elements (at a minimum):
 - Date of training,
 - Scheduled hours,
 - Overall title.
 - Detailed outline of the topics covered,
 - · Any references used,
 - Instructor name & credentials.
 - Time participant arrived at presentation and time participant left presentation (copy of attendance sheet).
- May include any combination of the following (So long as the minimum elements are met first):
 - · Copy of training announcement,
 - · Copy of hand outs,
 - · Copy of pre/posttests,
 - Copy of sign in/out sheets,
 - Copy of slide presentation,
 - · Copy of anything produced in small group activities,
 - Self-documentation (as approved by the CME Coordinator),
 - Anything else to help fulfill the minimum documentation elements.
- Documentation of training must be provided to the CME Coordinator within 30 days of completion of the training.
 - No timely documentation (30 days Max.) = no CME credit.
- Owego EMS reserves the right not to accept documentation that is inaccurate, incomplete, altered in any manner, or untimely, and to refuse credit to participant for such training.

Periodic Policy Review:

The CME Coordinator and /or Assistant CME Coordinator will review this policy and the entire Owego EMS CME Program annually (no later than December 31st of each calendar year). The results of this annual review will be brought before the Village of

Owego Board at their first meeting following this review. At which time, the Board may make any necessary suggestions or changes to improve the Program.

The following members have NYS CIC/CLI certifications for Owego EMS

- Volunteer Employees of Owego EMS
 - Paul Cole, NYS EMT-P 204132, NYS CIC 9570
 - CIC at Critical Care level
 - Stephanie Cole, NYS EMT-P 268623, NYS CIC 9569
 - CIC at EMT- Advanced Level
 - Daniel Woody, NYS EMT-CC 251761, NYS CLI 9689
 - Christina VanWagenen, NYS EMT-P 194372, NYS CLI 10091
- Compensated part time employee of Village of Owego
 - Lynda VanDusen, NYS-CC 202091, NYS CLI 9885

Approval:

CME Coordinator: PAUL Cole	Date: 09/11/2024
Sign; Pauly Lla	
EMS Chief: Myhal TrRa	Date: 9/11/24
Medical Director	Date: September 11, 2024
Sign; ABOUC	<u></u>
Village of Owego Michael Bara	TTA III, MAYDE 09/11/2024
Similar Mark	

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AGENCY REGISTRATION FORM

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Continuing Education Recertification Program

Print Neatly in UPPER CASE Letters - Complete ALL Information - Incomplete forms will be denied and returned

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That each participant recertification request and all necessary documentation is forwarded to the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services no less than 45 days before the participant's current certification expires.
Paul Cole Vand J.M.
Printed Name of Agency Agent Signature of Agency Agent
09/11/2024
Date
Medical Director
medical Director
First Name MI
ZACHARY
Last Name
Address
1 7 9 7 E A S T C A M P V I L L E R D State
ENDICOTT
Zip Code Phone 6 0 7 - 3 3 3 - 8 4 1 6
1 3 7 6 0 - 6 0 7 - 3 3 3 - 8 4 1 6 (Area Code)
NYS License Number
2 9 2 1 0 6
As Medical Director for this Agency's Continuing Education Program I accept responsibility for:
 Medical Oversight of content for in-house CME sessions (Those not conducted by a NYS Instructor as part of Core Material review) Completion of core material review by all participants Verification of skills proficiency for all participants Reading and abiding by all requirements set forth in the Pilot Program Administrative Manual and any other policy statements, memorandums,
etc. distributive by the NYS DOH BEMS.
Dr. Zachary Dewar
Printed Name of Medical Director Signature of Medical Director
September 11, 2024
Date
DOH-4227 (7/03)

As a participating agency in the Continuing Education Recertification Program, This agency will ensure the following:

An Agency File listing all participants in the program and their progress will be kept up to date on site.

Emergency Medical Services are met.

The agency will abide by all requirements set forth in the Pilot Program Administrative Manual and any other policy statements, memorandums, etc. distributed by the NYS DOH BEMS.

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services or its designee may inspect all files pertaining to the program upon reasonable request. Guidelines for the Continuing Education Recertification Program published by the New York State Department of Health Bureau of

An Individual File for each participant containing record of CME will be kept up to date on site. If a contracted third party maintains these files, a copy of the contract and the physical location of the files must accompany this application.



JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H. Commissioner **JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.**Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 12, 2024

Governor

5317
Paul Cole, Capt. CME Coordinator
Village of Owego EMS
87 North Ave.
P O Box 22
Owego, NY 13827

Congratulations,

Village of Owego EMS is now enrolled in the NYS DOH "3-Year Continuing Medical
Now Self-study. The Registration, and a signed copy of the agency's CME program Plan, Policies and procedures has been received. The department will retain these on file.

The dynamics of the CME Program requires continuous updates and changes so the program evolves with the agency. It is recommended that Village of Owego EMS continue to review their program plan on an annual basis to update and improve the agency's program policies and procedures. Anytime the plan has been revised all responsible parties including the chief executive officers, CME coordinator, and Medical Director should again sign off on the plan. A copy should be submitted to the Bureau to be kept on file with the agency's CME record.

Here are a few recent updates you will want to keep your agency aware of.

- 1. The Bureau of EMS will soon stop accepting recertification applications by postal service. All recertification submissions must be done through the CME Portal found at: http://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/cme-submission-portal
- 2. Due to changes in regulations the certification period has been increased from 36 months to 48 months. While there is no change in the education requirements at this time. These requirements remain subject to review and change in the future.

Please review with your members the policies and requirements needed to participate in the CME-Based Recertification Program.

Once again, Congratulations! Please contact this department for questions or concerns. Respectfully,

Gene G. Myers Health System Specialist Unit Chief, CME Program NYS DOH Bureau of EMS 875 Central Avenue Albany, New York 12206 (518) 402-0995