Flight Paramedic Program

Update for the U.S. Army Future Flight Medic Initiative

U.S. Naval Aeromedical Conference 14-17 January 2013
Disclosure Statement

CPT Brian P. Alexander and all others involved in the planning, development and presentation of this CME activity provide the following Disclosure information:

"Nothing to disclose"
AGENDA

PURPOSE: Provide an overview of the Flight Paramedic transition

Background Information

Current Flight Medic (68WF3)

Future Flight Medic

National Registry Certification/Recertification

Flight Paramedic

Role of the Flight Paramedic in Critical Care Transport

Flight Medic Authorizations and Paramedic Transition to FY17
Background

March 2010 - Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDD C&S) established a Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) Integrated Concept Development Team (ICDT)

- ICDT confirmed a significant capability gap existed, indicating a need for increased medical skill set training among Flight Medics

April 2010 - Critical Task Selection Board (CTSB) was conducted by the Academy of Health Sciences (AHS) and the United States Army School of Aviation Medicine (USASAM)

- Recommendation was training on par with Critical Care Nationally Registered Paramedic/CC-EMT-P
Background

February 2011 - AHS hosted a Flight Medic Symposium in order to discuss, develop, and analyze courses of action (COA) to close the skills gap identified by the ICDT and develop a decision brief for the Commander, AMEDDC&S.

- Recommendation was a Nationally Registered Paramedic prepared to take the Flight Paramedic Certification (FP-C) exam.

March 2011 - CG AMEDD C&S, directed that Army Flight Medics should be certified as Nationally Registered Paramedics with Critical Care training

Joint DOTMLPF Change Recommendation (DCR) Tactical Critical Care Transport
Current Flight Medic

Training, Certification and Sustainment

Identified by the ASI “F3” (MOS 68W)

Minimum requirement to maintain
  • Certification as EMT/EMT-B
  • Class 3 flight physical
  • Credentials (ACLS, ITLS/PHTLS, & PEPP/PALS/EPC)

Created two ways
  • School trained (Flight Medic Course)
  • OJT (Credentials + flight hours/experience)

Medical Education and Demonstration of Individual Competence (MEDIC)

Tables I-VIII

72 hours Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to recertify as EMT/EMT-B
Future Flight Medic

Apr 2011- US Army Surgeon General approved the initiative to train US Army Flight Medics to the level of “Flight Paramedic-Certified(FP-C)/CC EMT-P”

FY 12- Funding approved for two 30-student pilot courses, each consisting of Nationally Registered Paramedic (NRP) training & certification (26 weeks), plus critical care clinical training in preparation for the FP-C exam (8 weeks)

Feb 12 – First NRP course at the University of Texas, Health Science Center, San Antonio TX
Aug 12- First NRP course graduated
Aug 12- Second NRP course started at UTHSC
Feb 13- Second NRP course graduates / Third Course starts at UTHSC

FY13- Local Civilian Paramedic Training Programs
EMT-P National Registry Paramedic

NRP recertification requirements- 48 hours refresher training course or 48 hours of Continuing Education Units
  • CPR (BLS) Certification
  • Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certification

Verification of Skills Competence conducted by the Physician Medical Director of EMT-Paramedic training and operations

24 hours of additional EMS related Continuing Education signed by the Training Officer/Supervisor
# EMT-P National Registry Paramedic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>NOTE: A total of 72 hours of EMS education is required to recertify.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Refresher</td>
<td>The Paramedic refresher course can be completed through two different options:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(48 hours)</td>
<td>(1) Traditional refresher course</td>
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<td>Completion of an approved 48 hour DOT National Standard Paramedic Refresher or CECBEMS approved refresher course.</td>
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<td>(2) Continuing education topical hours</td>
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<td>Paramedic refresher may be completed by continuing education* and must include both mandatory and flexible content. See the reverse side for more information.**</td>
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<td><strong>Some states require the traditional refresher course and will not accept continuing education hours. Please refer to your state’s particular requirements.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>A maximum number of 10 hours can be applied from Distributive Education towards this section and must be state or CECBEMS approved.</strong></td>
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<td>2. Additional EMS Related Continuing Education</td>
<td>The following are maximum hours per course that can be applied towards Additional EMS Related Continuing Education hours:</td>
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<td>(24 hours)</td>
<td>• A maximum number of 12 hours can be applied from any one topic area.</td>
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<td>• Hour for hour credit can be applied for standardized courses (including, but not limited to, ABLIS, ACLS, AMLS, PHTLS, PALS, PEPP, etc.) and teaching EMS courses.</td>
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<td>• A maximum number of 12 hours can be applied from each of the following courses: Teaching CPR • Emergency Driving • Dispatch Training.</td>
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<td>• A maximum number of 12 hours can be applied from Distributive Education towards this section and must be state or CECBEMS approved.</td>
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<td>College Courses : Hour for hour credit can be applied for college courses that relate to your role as an EMS professional (for example, but not limited to, anatomy, physiology, biology, chemistry, pharmacology, psychology, sociology, statistics, etc.)</td>
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<td>3. ACLS</td>
<td>Submission of approved ACLS equivalent to current AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC. Credential must be current through March 31. Verification may be in the form of a card or certificate.</td>
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<td>4. CPR Certification</td>
<td>Submission of approved CPR credential for the professional rescuer. Credential must be current through the March 31. Verification may be in the form of an instructor’s signature on the recertification form or copies of both sides of a current card.</td>
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## Paramedic Refresher Requirements

You may complete continuing education equivalent to a Refresher Course if one is not required by your state. You may count education received in lectures, standardized courses (such as ABLs, ACLs, PEPP, PALS, PHTLS, ITLS, etc.), college courses, in service training, case reviews, conferences, etc. Up to 10 hours of the refresher training can be by Distributive Education (online, video or magazine-based).

You must ensure that you cover every topic within the four divisions of the mandatory core content. You must also cover each of the five divisions of the flexible core content; however, you are not required to cover each topic.

### Mandatory Core Content

#### Airway, Breathing and Cardiology
- 8 hours
  - Provide ventilatory support for a patient
  - Attempt to resuscitate a patient in cardiac arrest
  - Provide care to a patient experiencing circulatory compromise
  - Provide post resuscitation care to a cardiac arrest patient

#### Medical Emergencies
- 3 hours
  - Assess and provide care to a patient experiencing an allergic reaction
  - Assess a patient with possible overdose
  - Assess and provide care to a near-drowning patient

#### Trauma
- 5 hours
  - Perform a rapid trauma assessment
  - Assess a patient with a head injury
  - Assess and provide care to a patient with suspected spinal injury
  - Provide care to a patient with a closed head injury
  - Provide care to a patient with an open abdominal injury
  - Provide care to a patient with shock/hypoperfusion

#### Obstetrics and Pediatrics
- 8 hours
  - Assess and provide care to an infant or child with cardiac arrest
  - Assess and provide care to an infant or child with respiratory distress
  - Assess and provide care to an infant or child with shock/hypoperfusion
  - Assess and provide care to an infant or child with trauma

#### 24 hours

### Flexible Core Content

#### Airway, Breathing and Cardiology
- 8 hours
  - Assess and provide care for respiratory distress in an adult patient
  - Use oxygen delivery system components
  - Perform techniques to assure a patent airway
  - Assess and provide care to a patient experiencing non-traumatic chest pain/discomfort

#### Medical Emergencies
- 5 hours
  - Assess and provide care to a patient with an altered mental status
  - Assess and provide care to a patient with a history of diabetes
  - Assess and provide care to a patient experiencing a seizure
  - Assess and provide care to a patient exposed to heat or cold
  - Assess and provide care to a patient experiencing a behavioral problem
  - Assess and provide care to a patient with suspected communicable disease

#### Trauma
- 1 hour
  - Provide care to a patient with a painful, swollen, deformed extremity
  - Assess and provide care to a patient with burn injury

#### Obstetrics and Pediatrics
- 8 hours
  - Assess and provide care to an infant or child with suspected abuse or neglect
  - Assess and provide care to an infant or child with fever
  - Assess and provide care for the obstetric patient
  - Provide care to the newborn
  - Provide care to the mother immediately following delivery of a newborn

#### Operational Tasks
- 2 hour
  - Use body mechanics when lifting and moving a patient
  - Communicate with a patient while providing care

#### 24 hours
Flight Paramedic

More knowledge, advanced skills and greater depth of training to provide optimal patient care:

- Enables military Flight Medics to integrate into Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) missions
- Will more closely align with the civilian model for medical transport providers

Professionalization of pre-hospital medicine:

- Formal sustainment training requirements
- Requires aggressive/consistent Medic training plan

Critical Care training & clinical exposure preparing them for the FP-C exam
# Flight Medic Authorizations

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Questions?