North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services

*Education Update*

NCCCAEA

2014 Fall Conference
Topics

• OEMS rules
• OEMS credentials and background checks
• Current concerning issues
• Revision of course hours
• What does the future hold?
• CoAEMSP Accreditation
OEMS Rules
NCGS 131E, 155-162 & NCGS 143, 508-518

• Gives OEMS authority to establish educational programs to credential EMS personnel
10 NCAC 13P Rules

• Require that:
  • EMS education programs be delivered by approved institutions
  • Institutions seeking approval must submit an educational plan to OEMS

• Gives OEMS authority to place enforcement actions
Proposed Rules

• Were approved in the August 2014 EMS Advisory Council

• Will be heard at the November meeting of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission

• Tentative implementation date- July 1st, 2015
OEMS credentials and background checks
Initial Credentialing

- Be at least 18 years old (can test at 17 y/o)
- Successfully complete approved educational program for level of application
- Successfully complete TSOP
- Successfully complete written OEMS exam within one year from course end date in 3 attempts (if not successful in 3 attempts retake initial course)
- Background checks
- Credential term 4 years
Background checks

• NC resident last 5 years without interruption- NC check only
• Not NC resident or resident <5 years without interruption- State and National check
• SBI fingerprints and fee $38: Electronic payment module coming soon!!
• AOC downloads
• Complaint/ Investigation process
• Convictions
• Disciplinary Committee
• Denial, revocation, suspension
Convictions

• All convictions are reviewed

• Applicants selected for interview may include:
  ▪ Felonies & violent crimes
  ▪ Child abuse
  ▪ Sexual abuse / Harassment
  ▪ Substance abuse issues including DUI
  ▪ OEMS investigations
EMS Disciplinary Committee

• Established by NC General Statute

• Composed of 7 members
  ▪ 2 EMS Medical Directors
  ▪ 1 representative of the NC Medical Board
  ▪ 1 EMS Administrator
  ▪ 1 EMS Educator
  ▪ 2 EMS Professionals (1 EMT-P)

• Make recommendations to OEMS Chief
Current Concerning Issues
Allowing students into EMS Courses when they have not met the Co/Pre-requisites

• If your Institution is allowing this:
  • The Institution is responsible for ensuring that the student is provided assistance and guidance to ensure success
  • If a student obtains a Credential without meeting the requirements:
    • The Credential of the student is at risk for disciplinary action from the OEMS
    • The Course will be audited to ensure no other students were pushed through
    • The Instructor could have their Credentials placed at risk for disciplinary action from the OEMS
    • The Institution could have it’s Credential placed at risk for disciplinary action from the OEMS
Educational Institutions not following their Education Plan

• If your Institution does not follow the current plan on file with the NCOEMS:
  • The Institution could have its Credential placed at risk for disciplinary action from the OEMS
  • Courses that do not meet the requirements of the plan may be denied or suspended until the issues are resolved
Overriding the Educational Plan

• The Education Plan that is on file with the NCOEMS must be followed:

• In the event that this occurs, the Administration is then placing the Educational Institution, Program Director and Instructors in a situation where:

  • The Institution could be at risk for disciplinary action from the OEMS
  • The Program Director could have their Credentials placed at risk for disciplinary action from the OEMS
  • The Instructors of courses could have their Credentials placed at risk for disciplinary action from the OEMS
  • Litigation by those students effected can occur
Other issues

• EMS Courses
  • Allowing students to administer medications or perform skills that are not within the Scope of Practice:
    • Places the student at risk for disciplinary actions from the OEMS
    • Places the Institution at risk for disciplinary actions from the OEMS

• Paramedic Programs
  • Non CoAEMSP Accredited Programs
    • If your Institution is running a program not accredited by CoAEMSP, then it would be in the best interest of the Institution to inform all potential candidates. Creation of an acknowledgement waiver to be signed by the student might assist with this issue.
    • Allowing students to complete the course and then telling them to go to an Accredited Program and take the Refresher Course is not acceptable by CoAEMSP.
Revision of Course Hours
Curriculum Realignment
Funded by NCCCS Perkins Grant

• Obtained by Gaston CC

  • Involved all Curriculum Programs in NCCCS

  • Other Shareholders/Stakeholders were invited to participate

  • Intent: Create a standardized platform for all EMS Education in NC and Transition current NC Curricula to National Ed Standards
Curriculum Realignment
Funded by NCCCS Perkins Grant

• End product:
  • Mapping of NSC Curricula to Ed Standards
  • Create or match objectives to standards
  • Create “Best Practices Approach”
    • Instructing and evaluating
    • Defined competencies
Curriculum: Perkins Grant

• Curriculum side has revised it’s courses already

• Perkins Grant: Assisted with the Curriculum realignment project for EMS
  • Took National Standard Curricula and mapped it to the National Education Standards
  • This will make all Institutions transition to competency based education for EMS Students
  • Information can be found at: [http://www.nc-net.info/db-law-cluster.php](http://www.nc-net.info/db-law-cluster.php)
  • When building new content, the program will need to include content for skills and medications that are within the Scope of Practice for each EMS Level within North Carolina. The skills and medications pertinent to North Carolina EMS Levels may be found in the most current edition on the North Carolina Medical Board Skills and Medications for EMS Personnel.
NCOEMS EMS Course Guidelines

- NCOEMS is currently revising the EMS Course Guidelines
  - Didactic hours are fairly consistent with the current hours and will meet the National Education Standard recommended hours
  - Prerequisites are currently being discussed
  - Clinical and Field hours are currently being discussed
  - Intent is to have these completed and posted ASAP
New National EMS Levels

• Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  • Formerly First Responder (FR) 60 +/-hrs.

• Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
  • Formerly EMT-Basic (EMT-B) 150-190 +/-hrs of Didactic. Clinical and Field Internship TBD.

• Advanced EMT (AEMT)
  • Formerly EMT-Intermediate/85 EMT-I/85 150-250 +/- hrs of Didactic. Clinical and Field Internship TBD.

• Paramedic
  • Formerly EMT-Paramedic
  • Follow the CoAEMSP Guidelines and Standards
What does the future have in store?
What does the future have in store?

• “New” Credentialing Exams
• Transition Content- Already available
• Advisory Committee has approved to move forward with the rules
• Medical Care Commission to hear rules November 2014
• Public registry and comment after January 2015
• Anticipated enactment July 1, 2015
NCOEMS Approved
Transition Course for NREMT

• Available first of November 2012

  • Must submit a proposed course outline to their Regional Educational Specialist for approval.

  • Must inform all Providers taking the course that this content does not replace their current protocols (Local, NCCEP, State) or the approved medications and skills formulary that has been approved by the North Carolina Medical Board

  • Successful completion will be denoted by the OEMS Approved Educational Institution issuing an official completion certificate and reflection of such course is available on an official Educational Transcript.
Transition Timeframe

• Educational Institutions
  • Twelve (12) months from effective rule date

• Credentials
  • Minimum of four (4) years from effective rule date
  • Maximum of six (6) years from effective rule date
  • No early renewal to get “NEW” Credential patch
    • Will occur once transition content has been met and issued at renewal
  • What happens if I do not transition?
    • Will be dropped to next lowest level
NCOEMS Assistance

• NCOEMS is currently developing tools to assist the Institutions with the transition from “Old” to “New”
  • Assistance and guidance as needed
  • Best practice approaches
  • Competency based education for EMS Students
  • On site visits as needed to assist the Institution
  • Updated Educational Institution Plan
  • Others as the need arises
CoAEMSP Accreditation

• At the November 2012 EMS Advisory Council meeting, OEMS was tasked with providing a snapshot of accreditation, potential obligations and potential costs to North Carolina.

• February 13, 2013
  • EMS Advisory Council unanimously approved:
    • This body move forward with a recommendation that by the year 2016 all EMT-Paramedic institutions be CoAEMSP accredited and challenge those with adequate funding to expedite this process.
CoAEMSP Accreditation

- Proposed EMS Rules have included:
  - Some portions of the CoAEMSP model to be followed by all OEMS Educational Institutions
  - Created a new rule for CoAEMSP Accredited Institutions, which gives them reciprocity to run concurrently with their Accreditation and not to exceed five (5) years, as long as the following are met:
    - Executive summary is presented to the OEMS
    - An OEMS Representative is present at the CoAEMSP Site Visit
    - All NCOEMS specifics are met
CoAEMSP Accredited

- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College - Asheville, NC
- Blue Ridge Community College - Flat Rock, NC
- Catawba Valley Community College - Hickory, NC
- Gaston College - Dallas, NC
- Guilford Technical Community College - Jamestown, NC
- Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center - Fort Bragg, NC
- Piedmont Community College - Roxboro, NC
- Southwestern Community College-Sylva - Sylva, NC
- Western Carolina University - Cullowhee, NC
CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LOR)

- Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute - Hudson, NC
- Central Carolina Community College-Sanford - Sanford, NC
- Central Piedmont CC/Carolina Medical Center Consortium - Charlotte, NC
- Cleveland Community College - Shelby, NC
- Coastal Carolina Community College - Jacksonville, NC
- Coastal Carolina Community College - Jacksonville, NC
- Davidson County Community College - Thomasville, NC
- **Durham Technical Community College - Hillsborough, NC - Site Visit Completed**
- Fayetteville Technical Community College - Fayetteville, NC
- **Lenoir Community College - Kinston, NC - Site Visit Completed**
- Pitt Community College - Greenville, NC
- North Carolina State University – Raleigh, NC
- Rockingham Community College - Wentworth, NC
- Sandhills Community College - Pinehurst, NC
- Tri County Community College - Murphy, NC
- Western Piedmont Community College - Morgantown, NC
Questions?