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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2023-10-27-01	Scheduled Downtime and Updates to the Education Module of Maine EMS's eLicensing Portal		October 27, 2023
Superseded	Released By:	Source:	Pages
N/A	Maine EMS	Maine EMS	2
Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP (Maine EMS Director)		
Overview: On October 27, 2023, the Education modules on the eLicensing site will be unavailable so Maine EMS and Image Trend can make updates to CEH topic hours. We expect the site to be back up on November 1, 2023.			

Maine EMS will temporarily disable the Education Module of the Maine EMS eLicensing portal to conduct necessary updates between October 27, 2023, and November 1, 2023. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

During this time, EMS clinicians and educators will be unable to:

- Request approval of continuing education hours (CEH) or manage CEH courses in eLicensing.
- Add CEH course certificates to their own CEH report.

This update will revise the CEH categories and hour requirements to align with [Chapter 5 of the Maine EMS Rules](#)¹ adopted by the EMS Board in 2021. These rules change also includes transitioning to a two-year license cycle and standards based on the 2016 National Continued Competency Program (NCCP).

To summarize the changes:

- The following topic areas will be retired:
 - Preparatory/Operations
 - Assessment
 - Medical
 - Trauma
 - Obstetrics/Pediatrics
 - Skills ALS
 - Skills BLS
- The following topic areas will be added:

¹ “For license renewals on or after November 1, 2023, continuing education requirements will be based upon a two-year licensing cycle and shall be in accordance with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians’ 2016 National Continued Competency Program Hour Requirements listed below...”

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- ARV (Airway, Respirations, Ventilation)
- Cardiology
- Operations
- Medical
- Trauma
- Local Content Requirements
- Individual Content Requirements
 - Local and Individual Content Requirements are being handled as flex hours (formerly known as Further Continuing Education)

Maine EMS has established an automated conversion process for existing approved courses with hours assigned to a retiring topic area. See the in-depth description below for more information about the Automated Conversion Process.

Automated Conversion Process

The affected courses are between May 1, 2019, and October 26, 2023. There are 9,176 unique EMS courses with 16,995 different topic hour areas. The initial mapping of courses from current Maine EMS CEH topic hours to the 2016 NCCP topic hours is described below—several topic hour areas transfer one-for-one (e.g., Medical, Trauma, and Operations).

Challenges arise when assessing courses for mapping from the Maine EMS topic hours to the NCCP topic hours for topics that do not transfer one to one (i.e., Assessment, Obstetric/Pediatrics, Airway, Breathing & Circulation (ABC), Skills – ALS, and Skills – BLS). For courses with a corresponding topic area in the new model and skills hours (ALS, BLS, or both), those skills hours will be assigned to the same topic area as the remaining hours. For example, a two-hour course with the previous topic areas of one hour of Medical and one hour of Skills – BLS will now have two hours of the NCCP Medical topic area.

For courses that do not have a direct pathway for mapping, Maine EMS has designed a matching algorithm that searches for key terms within the course name and description. The algorithm assigns an appropriate flag based on the content in those two locations.

Courses with a singular flag will have their associated topic hours assigned to the respective NCCP topic area. For example, if a course with topic hours in the current ABC topic area receives only an associated flag for the NCCP Cardiology topic area, those hours will be reassigned to the NCCP Cardiology topic area.

For courses with multiple flags (e.g., a course with two hours in the current ABC topic area and an NCCP ARV and NCCP Cardiology flag), the hours will be split evenly, so in the example, one hour in NCCP ARV and one hour in NCCP Cardiology.

For Skills – ALS/BLS courses with no other topic areas, hours will be distributed evenly among the NCCP topic areas.