

Chapter 19: Community Paramedicine Informational FAQ

Rule Questions

Question #1: What's the benefit of increasing to the full licensure level of paramedic over the conditional license? What more will I be allowed to do for my community?

Answer #1: The conditional license pathway was developed to enable those who have been practicing to continue practicing while they come into compliance with the licensing requirements. The conditional license pathway is available for those who have been practicing CP prior to July 1, 2024, and only enables providers to practice within their EMT, AEMT or Paramedic scope of practice. This is the same scope of practice utilized within the 911 setting. The other licenses at the CP-A, CP-T, and CP levels have an additive scope with additional skills and training specific to the community-based setting. It is important to assess your community's needs to decide what CP licensing level makes the most sense for your community and its needs.

Question #2: How do we show proof of CP runs for the conditional license?

Answer #2: Proof can be shown through patient care reports. This can be achieved by pulling reports from MEFIRS within the community health module or the EMS incident report with a "community paramedicine" dropdown. Depending on when a provider started, they may need to pull reports from both sections.

Question #3: What counts as initial education for conditional licensure?

Answer #3: Initial education varies depending on each agency's CP designation plan. Education may be from a community college or training center. In which case a transcript provides adequate documentation. For those who did in-house training a letter from leadership attesting to the education provided is sufficient.

Documentation Questions

Question #4: How do I enable PCPs at different practices to access our PCRs?

Answer #4: This can be achieved in a few different ways. Records can be faxed within MEFIRS directly to PCPs. PCPs can also access records through Health Info Net (HIN) as long as they are tracking that specific patient.

Question #5: I know we get that HIN works in ER cases but does it also work for individual home visits?

Answer #5: Yes, HIN works both with the 911 reports and Community Paramedicine reports.

Question #6: What happens is if I get a referral for a CP patient and the physician says to go 6 times or every week do I have to check in with the PCP to generate a HIN report?

Answer #6: HIN reports are automatically pulled for enrolled entities including MEFIRS. If a provider has reporting on for said patient they should automatically receive notification of each visit in 24 hours. Each patient encounter should have a patient care report completed in the community health module within 24 hours.

Education Questions

Question #7: Where will Community Paramedicine CEHs be available? Are there restrictions on where a clinician may seek those out?

Answer #7: CP CEHs can be achieved through a variety of places. All CEHs must follow the same process as other EMS licensing and be approved in eLicensing. CAPCE courses are a useful avenue for CEHs. CP CEHS must align with the CP CEH requirements outlined within the CP education standards.

Question #8: Is the base level education standardized across the state or is it up to my local training center?

Answer #8: The education standards for CP provide a standardized requirement for education across the state for CP licensure courses. All courses for licensing must follow these standards, however, just as any other course how each training center chooses to deliver the education may differ. For example, one training center may choose to do a hybrid class, while another may choose to have all educational content delivered in person. Licensing courses must be delivered through a Maine EMS-approved training center.

Question #9: What funding will Maine EMS provide for education requirements?

Answer #9: Maine EMS is not a funding source, but rather a regulatory office. However, we have had a few recent grants that may support with these efforts, including RFA#202412213 and the sustainability grants. Workforce development is also a good collaborator for potential educational funding.

Question #10: Is there any allowance made for deadlines if you are registered for a class that doesn't begin until September?

Answer #10: Those who have been providing CP services prior to July 1, 2024 can obtain a conditional license while waiting to complete a CP licensure course. After completion of the course, they can apply for a license at the appropriate level.

Question #11: You mentioned that the community paramedic license level of hours of education is roughly equivalent to an associate's degree. Do my medics need to get associate's degrees to continue?

Answer #11: The standards outline hours requirements versus a degree requirement. To get licensed at the Community Paramedic level the clinicians would need 1800 hours of education. However, a EMS-licensed paramedic can also provide CP services at the CP-A or CP-T level with a 32-hour or 96-hour course, respectively. Looking at community needs may inform what scope is most relevant and, therefore what course makes the most sense.

Question #12: I know that the requirements are that the classes must be Maine based except there aren't classes readily available. Going forward will there be the opportunity to use national programs?

Answer #12: The rule specifically identifies that a Maine-licensed training center provides education. As the rule is currently written, a national program will not work. We encourage licensees to connect with local training centers to identify the need for education.

Question #13: To be clear we can use CAPCE classes for CP in Maine?

Answer #13: Yes, CAPCE courses can be used for CP CEHs as long as they align with the CEH framework and aren't double-dipped. For example, if you use class A for your Paramedic relicensing, then you couldn't use it for your CP license as well.

Question #14: I'm in the middle of getting all my paperwork together for my National registry. Are there CEHs I could grab from that and apply towards CP?

Answer #14: CEHs can't be used twice, however, any CEHs completed that align with the CP standards and that aren't used elsewhere may be utilized for CP licensing.