

# Northwest Community EMS System

## Paramedic Class Advisory Committee Report

May 14, 2015

---

We started **EMS 215 Field Internship** with 31 students and all currently remain. Several performance issues have surfaced:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some students have not researched and written the patient <b>pathophysiology reports</b> in compliance with instructions and have needed to substantially rewrite their submissions, delaying their time in phase I.</li><li>In some instances, educators had differing opinions on the level of complexity and detail required in the reports, resulting in inconsistent expectations of the students.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sample pathophysiology submissions had been published in the past so students and educators were given a standard to follow. This was done for some of the struggling students, but should become a routine practice for future classes.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A very small number of students (3/31) have failed to enter their patient care contacts and skills performed during the field internship into <b>FISDAP</b> in a timely manner as instructed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Each has received notice of noncompliance and opportunity for personal improvement (OPI). This OPI will be reflected in their summative performance evaluation.</li><li>While the requirement is stated in the student handbook and was communicated in the field internship orientation by the Program Director and Clinical Coordinator, we will strengthen the language in the student handbook and on the clinical forms to remove any possibility of misinterpretation of performance expectations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Call volumes have been low at some agencies and there is a possibility that a few students will not have access to sufficient patients to meet care contacts or skill competency measures by graduation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students were instructed to contact the Program Director by May 15<sup>th</sup> if they were concerned about low call volumes. There is a possibility of assigning them to a busier agency to enhance their patient numbers.</li><li>None have asked for this accommodation to date.</li></ul>

### EMS 214 – Hospital Clinical Rotations:

Hospital clinical rotations continued concurrently with EMS 215 for several students in order to complete the elective rotation and reschedule OB and/or OR time as needed to achieve patient care contacts or live intubation requirements.

In doing an inventory of student performance, it was found that 21/31 had completed their clinical rotations as expected and on time. On May 1, the remaining students were sent instructions regarding the absolute deadlines by which contact must be made with the Clinical Coordinator and the dates by which the rotations must be completed to receive a passing grade for EMS 214 Hospital Clinical.

All students have finally been scheduled for their remaining shift. However, if they are not done by May 22 and the paperwork submitted within one week, they will be given a failing grade for EMS 214 and will be dismissed from the program.

### Harper College Curriculum Committee approved of expanded credit hours

On May 7, 2015, the Curriculum Committee of Harper College considered the paramedic program's request to change elements of Course Syllabi and credit hours assigned to the Paramedic Certificate courses and the AAS degree based on the actual clock hours of instruction.

The EMS courses are being revised to:

- Update our materials within the Harper College documents from the old DOT EMS Curriculum to the National EMS Education Standards
- Meet requirements of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoA)
- Comply with updates to the Illinois EMS Act and Rules

Our paramedic and EMT courses remain a strong joint partnership initiative between the Harper College Division of Life Sciences and NCH EMS. **Special thanks is extended to Chris Dunn** who paved the way by informing the Committee about EMS and the scope of our education programs during his successful expansion of the EMT course credit hours from 7 to 9 in April. Grateful thanks are also offered to Marlene Resner, Administrative Secretary of the Harper Health Careers Division, who worked tirelessly to help us navigate through the process; Darlene Niebuhr, Curriculum Specialist; Julie D'Agostino, Director of Nursing, and Dean Kim Chavis for their strong and consistent support of the EMS programs.

**We are pleased to announce that the Committee unanimously approved all requested changes to go into effect in the Fall of 2015.** The total paramedic program credit hours will go from 29 to 40 if final approval is granted.

A full description of all the changes is available upon request. The final credit hour determinations are still being considered by the Harper College Provost. The official approval must come from the Illinois Community College Board and that is expected before the fall class begins.

### **Harper College purchasing a Patient Simulator for the Program**

At the direction of Julie D'Agostino, Harper is purchasing a high definition patient simulator for use in the EMT and paramedic programs on site at NCH. Planning is at the early stages for creating the specifications of our needs, but we anticipate the equipment to be operational by the start of the fall classes. HUGE THANKS TO HARPER!

### **Harper College submitted a Perkins Grant for an ECG monitor for the PM program**

Julie D'Agostino has also submitted a Perkins grant seeking funding for a fully loaded ECG monitor for the paramedic program that will interface with the patient simulator and also provide needed in-house inventory of this critical equipment to support the paramedic course and System entry labs. Currently, we must borrow equipment from the major monitor manufacturers and while they have been most generous in lending their products, we sometimes find it difficult to have adequate monitors to meet educational requirements as we continue to enhance labs to reflect actual patient practice. We anxiously await the result of this request! THANKS JULIE!

**Letter of Review (LOR) Application resubmitted to the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoA).**

We successfully created an updated consortial agreement with Harper College at the end of April and our LOR was submitted to CoA the very next day. This had been the major reason our initial application had been rejected. We are now anxiously awaiting word any day!

**We must be under a LOR for our students to be eligible to take the NR exam.** The chiefs reaffirmed at their March meeting that all NCH students must take the NREMT exam. We need a several month lead time to schedule a practical exam with NR, so timing is becoming a critical consideration for testing our current class.

**EMS 216 Seminar Hours began this week** – with case reports in the AM and practical stations in the PM, specially preparing students for our summative exams and NR testing.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie J. Mattera, MS, RN, EMT-P  
EMS Admin Director and Paramedic Program Director

**Goal:**  
**Complete requirements by**  
**June 12, 2015**

June 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	Final written
14	15	16	17	Graduation		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

