

## Northwest Community Healthcare (NCH) PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

### Agency Matches & Precourse Observational Experience

Students employed by one of our agencies and who **routinely ride ON AN AMBULANCE AND FUNCTION AS AN EMT-B ARE EXEMPT** from the observational assignment. Submit a letter from your agency Chief or Provider EMS Coordinator attesting to your employment experience as an EMT-B.

If you are employed by an EMS agency but are routinely assigned to fire fighter rather than EMS duties, you must complete the Observational experience as outlined below.

#### **SECURING AN AGENCY MATCH**

**UNAFFILIATED STUDENTS** who are being tentatively matched with a Provider Agency for the Field Internship: **ACTIONS NEEDED NOW**

- Attached is a form showing the class **SQUAD ASSIGNMENTS** and the **EMS AGENCIES** with whom you are being tentatively matched listed under your name. You need this information now.

Included on the bottom of the page is the hospital EMS Coordinator assigned to your agency who will mentor you through the field internship. You will need this information later in the class. Do not discard the Squad Assignment form.

Also attached is a **SYSTEM DIRECTORY** – listing the names, contact numbers, and e-mails of the hospital and Provider EMS Coordinators (PEMSCs) for each hospital and agency. This Directory is updated regularly and can be found on the System website: [www.nwcemss.org](http://www.nwcemss.org) under the About Us tab. Always refer to the edition on the website when making future contacts to ensure that people and/or contact information have not changed.

- You must call or contact by e-mail the Provider EMS Coordinator (PEMSC) for the agency listed below your name BY JULY 25th** to make an appointment. The agency will want to meet you and determine if you will be accepted by them for the internship. If accepted, you will need to learn any agency-specific requirements for your time with them.

**Failure to make this initial contact by that date will result in a forfeiture of your spot in the class.**

**If accepted by the agency;** schedule the observational time described below with the PEMSC.

**If NOT accepted by the agency,** contact Connie Mattera ([cmattera@nch.org](mailto:cmattera@nch.org)) to attempt to secure an alternate match. As stated in the Harper informational materials, there is no guarantee that the program can match you with an agency. Failure to be accepted by an agency as a guest for the field internship will disqualify you for a seat in the class.

#### **Pre-Class OBSERVATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Most incoming students lack significant field experience as an EMT. Therefore, they are expected to complete at least 16 hours of observational ride-a-long time on an ALS ambulance between the hours of 8 am (or shift change for the agency) and 12 pm (no nights) AND observe at least one ALS call before class begins. This may be accomplished in one day or be divided into multiple days depending on your schedule and the agency wishes.

While riding, students should be observing paramedics in action. Areas of concern in the past relative to student performance are: communicating effectively with patients, taking accurate patient histories and vital signs, correctly performing a physical exam, problem solving to make an accurate differential diagnosis, implementing a patient care plan consistent with SOPs and policy, communicating effectively with on-line medical control, and correctly identifying an appropriate receiving hospital or patient disposition.

As an incoming student, you do not yet have student liability coverage; therefore this experience is designed to be **OBSERVATIONAL ONLY**. **You are NOT allowed to perform any BLS or ALS interventions and should not be instructed on any ALS skills at this time.**

- Attached is the **Pre-class Field Observation Form** that must be completed and signed by the paramedic who precepted you for each shift that you ride. It must be brought in, faxed (847-218-4489) or scanned and emailed to Dara Sordo ([dsordo@nch.org](mailto:dsordo@nch.org)) after you complete your observation ride time and before the first day of class.