

POLICY MANUAL

Policy Title: PREHOSPITAL RN: Certification/Recertification			No. P - 4
Board approval: 3/95	Effective: 7/1/10	Supersedes: 7/1/05	Page: 1 of 3

I. PREHOSPITAL R.N. DEFINED

A "Prehospital Registered nurse (PHRN) is a registered progression nurse licensed under the Illinois Nursing (and Advanced Practice Nursing) Act who has successfully completed supplemental education in accordance with rules adopted by the Department pursuant to the Act and who is approved by an EMS Medical Director (EMS MD) to practice within an EMS System as emergency medical services personnel for pre-hospital and inter-hospital emergency care and non-emergency medical transports" (Section 3.80 of the Act). This individual was formerly called a Field RN.

II. POLICY

- A. The provision of prehospital care requires a specialized body of knowledge and skills. Therefore, all persons licensed or recognized by IDPH to provide prehospital Advanced Life Support (ALS) services must demonstrate the same minimum mastery of cognitive objectives and psychomotor skills as set forth in the U.S. DOT Standardized Curriculum and National Education Standards for Paramedics, irrespective of professional credentials, i.e., Paramedic or PHRN.
- B. The DOT curriculum and National Education Standards provide a national standard for ALS knowledge and skills and is competency-based, e.g., students must demonstrate their ability to perform to acceptable standards in both the classroom and clinical settings.
- C. Illinois EMS Rules require a PHRN candidate to complete an education curriculum formulated by an EMS System and approved by IDPH, which consists of classroom and practical training for both the adult and pediatric populations, including extrication, telecommunications, and prehospital cardiac and trauma care (Section 3.80(c)(1)(A) of the Act). They must also complete a supervised field internship as authorized by the EMS MD.

III. PROCEDURE

Nurses desiring to be approved as a PHRN in the NWC EMSS shall complete the following:

A. Prerequisites

1. Registered nurse with current Illinois license in good standing in accordance with the Illinois Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act;
2. Current healthcare provider CPR card through the AHA or a recognized affiliate;
3. Minimum of one year clinical practice in emergency or critical care nursing; and
4. Written approval to ride with, or evidence of employment by, an ALS Provider Agency in the NWC EMS System.

B. Didactic component

1. Prior nursing knowledge and clinical experience may prepare a PHRN student to challenge out of selected portions of the course through successful performance on topic-specific tests. Students will be offered the option of taking clep exams covering didactic content generally offered in an approved nursing curriculum. Scores of 80% or higher on each topical exam will exempt the student from attending those lectures in the Paramedic course.
2. Certain principles required for prehospital ALS practice are not included in an RN's education program, so must be obtained and mastered through the Paramedic course. These topics include, but may not be limited to:
 - a. Introduction to EMS; roles and responsibilities of EMS personnel
 - b. Medical/legal issues in EMS; EMS communications
 - c. Documentation using the CARS reporting system

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- d. Scene control and patient assessment in the prehospital environment; **including specific prehospital stroke, STEMI and trauma assessments**
- e. Application of sensors and interpretation of capnography waveforms and numeric results
- f. Invasive airway adjuncts and EMS oxygen delivery devices
- g. Cardiac monitoring (including interpretation of 12L ECGs) and dysrhythmia management; prehospital cardiac arrest management
- h. Pleural decompression
- i. Prehospital childbirth, newborn resuscitation
- j. Hazardous materials response and containment; rescue techniques; mass casualty incident triage and management
- k. Patient access and conveyance options; and
- l. System policies.

- 3. Applicants should contact the EMT-P Class Coordinator for full details regarding course requirements, challenge exams and approved equivalencies.

C. **Psychomotor component**

PHRN students must complete all mandatory skill competency labs/exams. Mandatory skill competencies include, but may not be limited to:

- 1. Assessment: Adult, pediatric, and infant
- 2. Airway access: Manual opening; NPA, OPA, suction; obstructed airway maneuvers; oral endotracheal, conscious sedated, in-line, digital, and nasal intubation; needle and surgical cricothyrotomy
- 3. Oxygen delivery/ventilatory support: Use and maintenance of portable O₂ cylinders; NC, NRM, BVM; SpO₂ and capnography monitoring
- 4. Cardiovascular support: Peripheral venous & intraosseous access; infusion of crystalloid solutions; cardiac monitoring using 3 and 12 leads; cardioversion, defibrillation, transcutaneous pacing; and code management
- 5. Drug administration techniques used in the NWC EMSS
- 6. Spine motion restriction: KED, long/short spine boards, helmet removal
- 7. Splinting techniques: Limb splints, traction splints, PASG
- 8. Misc.: Capillary glucose monitoring, pleural decompression, use of restraints

D. **Hospital clinical component**

- 1. Candidates must provide evidence of professional liability insurance coverage if not employed by a NWC EMSS provider agency or hospital that is willing to extend liability coverage while the nurse is completing clinical requirements.
- 2. All students must complete or show prior demonstrations of the following clinical experiences meeting the knowledge objectives and patient care contacts listed in the Paramedic/PHRN Clinical Instruction Plans in the following hospital units within the last 12 months:

a.	Emergency department	-	136 hours
b.	OR (intubation)	-	16 hours
c.	OB	-	16 hours
d.	Peds	-	24 hours
e.	<u>Elective</u>	-	<u>8</u>

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3. Clinical rotations will not be waived for OB or OR. In addition, each PHRN applicant must participate as a victim or prehospital responder in one emergency preparedness exercise if paramedic students are afforded that opportunity.
- E. **Field internship:** PHRN students shall complete the same prehospital internship requirements as paramedic students.
 - F. **PHRN testing:** Applicants must successfully complete all didactic requirements including paramedic course written and practical exams.
 - G. **PHRN recognition:** When all course objectives and requirements are met, the Resource Hospital shall forward a transaction card to IDPH recommending recognition as a PHRN.
 - H. **Records maintenance:** A PHRN shall notify their EMS System(s) within 30 days after any change in name, affiliation, or address who will update the IDPH database.
 - I. **PHRN recertification**
 1. Recertification is required every four years. A PHRN shall maintain their credential in the same manner as a Paramedic. PHRNs should review System Policy R-1, Relicensure: Paramedic to determine the requirements for recertification.
 2. If testing is required by the System for paramedics, the same requirements shall apply to PHRNs to remain in good standing. A PHRN will be required to comply with System Policies C2 Continuing Education and E-4: Modular Proficiency Exams in order to successfully maintain his/her System privileges.
 3. **CHILD SUPPORT STATEMENT:** IDPH requires a PHRN to certify on the renewal application form, under penalty of perjury, that he or she is not more than 30 days delinquent in complying with a child support order. The individual PHRN is responsible for entering the requested information and signing and forwarding the form to the NWC EMSS office. A PHRN will not be relicensed unless the Resource Hospital receives their Child Support Statement.
 - J. **Certificate expiration:** The certificate of a PHRN who has failed to file an application for renewal shall terminate on the day following the expiration date shown on the license.
 - K. **REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION:** Recognition as a PHRN may be extended by IDPH only when appropriate documents substantiating hardship is provided in writing accompanied by a recommendation from the EMS MD. To request an extension, complete and submit the IDPH EMT Extension Form to the NWC EMSS office for processing with IDPH.
 - L. **INACTIVE STATUS:** Prior to the expiration of the current approval, a PHRN may request to be placed on inactive status. The request shall be made in writing on the IDPH Inactive/Reactivation Form. Submit the form to the NWC EMSS office for review and processing with IDPH. The form shall contain a statement that explains the reasons for requesting inactive status and must be accompanied by the current PHRN license (copies not accepted by IDPH). IDPH will review and grant or deny requests for inactive status. If approved, the nurse may not function as a PHRN. To reactive, the PHRN shall adhere to System Policy I-1 (Inactive Status).