

**CCEMS
OPERATIONS POLICY 100-17
CLINICAL OBSERVERS / STUDENTS**

I. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an educational experience for health care professionals and students in the pre-hospital environment.
- 1.2 To provide an opportunity for other individuals who are not actively involved in EMS to experience the field of pre-hospital emergency medicine and see the day-to-day operations of CCEMS.
- 1.3 To maximize the safety of the observer, the patient, and the crews while observing at CCEMS.
- 1.4 To assure that each observer is welcome at all CCEMS stations and enjoys a positive experience while observing with CCEMS.

II. POLICY

- 2.1 As availability permits, CCEMS will schedule clinical observation time for health care professionals and students.
 - 2.1.1 Clinical observers and students must be scheduled through the Educational Coordinator.
 - 2.1.2 Clinical observation time will be scheduled with CCEMS approved preceptors.
 - 2.1.3 Students must be attending an accredited EMS training site which has a current contract with CCEMS in order to perform any pre-hospital care. Even then, the assigned preceptor has final say on what procedures the student is permitted to perform.
 - 2.1.4 Clinical observers will follow the direction of the preceptor assigned to them and limit their procedures to the "scope of practice" of their assigned preceptor.
 - 2.1.5 Clinical observers and students must sign all of the proper forms before being permitted to ride on the vehicle.
 - 2.1.6 Clinical observers and students must wear the official CCEMS ID badges, marked "Student" or "Observer" at all times while at CCEMS.
 - 2.1.7 The Educational Coordinator will brief the observer or student on CCEMS SOP's. Student and observers will also receive a briefing on the importance of HIPAA.
 - 2.1.8 The assigned preceptor is responsible for all of the actions of the student or observer.
- 2.2 As availability permits, CCEMS will schedule non-healthcare observers.
 - 2.2.1 Non-healthcare observers will be assigned to a senior EMT or preceptor and will not participate in patient care.
- 2.3 All students, healthcare observers and non-healthcare observers are required to adhere to all CCEMS policies and procedures at all times.
- 2.4 All students and observers must comply with all Federal and Ohio laws while observing with CCEMS.
- 2.5 All CCEMS employees will welcome and treat all observers and students with courtesy and respect.

- 2.6 In the event the student or observer violates any CCEMS policy or procedure or is unprofessional to any partner or patient, immediate contact will be made to the Education Coordinator. CCEMS administration will handle these types of issues immediately.

III. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Clinical observers will include individuals such as: First Responders, EMT-B's, EMT-I's, EMT-P's, as well as Physicians, Nurses, and other healthcare providers.
- 3.2 Students are individuals that are currently enrolled in a State accredited EMS program.
- 3.2.1 Clinical observers are permitted to observe any time a preceptor is available, but are limited to no more than 12 consecutive hours at any one time.
- 3.2.2 Students must be attending educational institutions that have a current contract with CCEMS. CCEMS must have a copy of this contract on file before the student is permitted to ride.
- 3.2.3 Individuals who have completed their scheduled classes and taken their final exam are no longer considered students, and therefore cannot perform clinical observation time as a student.
- 3.2.4 Students cannot perform procedures beyond those permitted by the Ohio Department of Public Safety-Division of EMS or their preceptor.
- 3.2.4.1 Students cannot perform procedures outside of the State of Ohio EMS Scope of Practice for their certification level.
- 3.2.4.2 Paramedic students will only be assigned to CCEMS paramedic approved preceptors. Intermediates students can be assigned to CCEMS Intermediate or paramedic approved preceptors. Basic students can be assigned to CCEMS Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic approved preceptors.
- 3.2.5 All students and observers will be required to sign the "Release of Liability" form.
- 3.2.5.1 Observers under the age of 18 must have the "Release of Liability" form signed by their parent or legal guardian.
- 3.2.6 Physicians, riding as clinical observers, cannot perform procedures beyond the "scope of practice" of their assigned preceptors unless they assume responsibility for the care of the patient and continue care for the patient to the hospital.
- 3.3 Non-healthcare observers cannot provide patient care. They are strictly limited to observing the procedures performed by CCEMS personnel. Non-clinical observers are individuals that have no healthcare training. I.e.; members of the media, individuals who are debating on entering the EMS profession, etc.
- 3.3.1 The observation hours for non-healthcare observers will be from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Saturday, unless special permission is granted by the Educational Coordinator or CCEMS Administration.
- 3.3.2 No observer will be scheduled on holidays, unless special permission is granted by the Educational Coordinator or Administration.
- 3.4 All observers ride time will be scheduled by the Education Coordinator.
- 3.4.1 Scheduling of observers will be based on the availability of preceptors.
- 3.4.2 CCEMS employees in orientation will have precedence over all students and observers.
- 3.4.3 Student observers will have precedence over all other observers.

- 3.4.4 In the event that more than one observer arrives at a CCEMS station at the same time, only the observer on the Education Coordinator's schedule will be allowed to remain. The other observer can move to another station if available.
- 3.5 Observers will adhere to all CCEMS policies and procedures. In addition:
- 3.5.1 Observers are required to observe the following dress code:
- Observers are to wear black or dark blue pants (No shorts, skirts, or blue jeans)
 - Observers are to wear white or light blue shirts, the shirts must have a collar.
 - Observers are to wear black or dark blue socks with black boots or shoes.
 - Long hair must be pulled back while on EMS calls.
 - Observer's facial hair must be groomed so that it will not interfere with wearing a respirator.
 - Strong scents, i.e. perfumes, colognes, aftershaves are not permitted due to their potential affect on sensitive patients.
 - No visible body piercing jewelry or dangling earrings are permitted due to safety concerns.
 - If needed, only CCEMS provided jackets are to be worn.
- 3.5.2 Identifying "student" or "observer" ID badge must be worn above the beltline at all times while observing.
- 3.5.3 Except in the case of extreme emergency, observers are prohibited from driving CCEMS vehicles or operating CCEMS radios.
- 3.6 All observers will comply with all Federal and Ohio laws.
- 3.6.1 Observers will be briefed by The Education Coordinator and/or member of Leadership, their preceptor or senior EMT on all infection control policies, HIPAA requirements, and CCEMS observer expectations and limitations.
- 3.6.1.1 Observers who violate the rules regarding patient confidentiality will immediately lose all observer privileges.
- 3.6.2 Observers are required to wear their seat belt while riding in CCEMS vehicles.
- 3.6.2.1 Clinical observers may remove their seat belt only while providing patient care.
- 3.7 The preceptor/senior EMT will introduce themselves to the observer and introduce the observer to the other partners on duty. The preceptor/senior EMT will also:
- 3.7.1 Review the rules and expectations for observation time.
- 3.7.2 Give the observer a tour of the station.
- 3.7.3 Give the observer a tour of the ambulance.
- 3.8 In the event that an observer arrives not in the appropriate attire, displays inappropriate behavior, or refuses to adhere to CCEMS rules and procedures, the preceptor/senior EMT will immediately contact the on duty Supervisor or the Education Coordinator. Failure to comply with CCEMS observer/student requirements may result in the immediate termination of observer or student privileges.

Director: 

Effective: _____

Reviewed: _____

Revised: 11-5-2010