

Context:

Based on feedback and enquiries that we have received from PHECC Emergency Medical Technicians over the last twelve months, we have found that a number of EMTs registered in Ireland have been finding it difficult to remain current and compliant with their Continual Professional Competency requirements. This may be down to limited availability (i.e. – personal commitments, work constraints, etc), lack of patient contacts on shifts (paid or unpaid/voluntary) and/or difficulty accessing clinical placements. Given the dual aspect to our work, being both a training provider (PHECC Recognised Institution, NAEMT Training Site, AHA/IHF Training Site) and an Ambulance Service, we felt that we were in a position to address this difficulty in a direct and succinct manner. This has led us to develop a Continual Professional Competence Education Programme for PHECC EMTs.

Purpose:

This programme has been developed to enable PHECC Registered Emergency Medical Technicians comply with their Continual Professional Competence requirements. Currently, the requirement is 18 CPC points a year (54 points over a three-year period).

CPC Requirements:

Your CPC requirements are broken into two sections:

1. Practice Status, involving:
 - a. A statement of context:
 - i. This is an introductory statement explaining the context in which you collect evidence and record experience as a practicing EMT.
 - ii. You must include this statement of context as the first part of your learning portfolio.
 - b. Evidence of at least 12 patient contacts per year
 - c. Evidence of your current CPG status
2. Compulsory requirement including self-selected options:
 - a. Cardiac First Response (CFR):
 - i. Two points required per year:
 1. Initial certification is part of EMT course and does not count towards CPC
 2. One year into each two year CFR Advanced certificate, CFR Refresher training required
 3. Every two years, CFR Advanced must be completed again
 - b. Mentor – Mentee:
 - i. Four points required per year
 - ii. Mentoring a student or being mentored on any experiential/operational ambulance, response vehicle placement
 - iii. One point per hour mentored/mentoring
 - c. Reflective practice/Case studies:
 - i. Four points required per year
 - ii. Reflective practice:
 1. A document containing key learning points
 2. Two points per document
 - iii. Case study:
 1. A Case Study on an incident, condition or injury you have encountered

2. Two points per document
- iv. Can be either two Reflective Practice documents, two Case Studies or one Reflective Practice document and one Case Study
- d. Self selected options:
 - i. Eight points required per year
 - ii. Can be any one of the following (or a combination of one or more):
 1. Courses
 - a. One point per hour
 - b. Can be single course or multiple short courses
 2. Seminars
 - a. One point per hour
 - b. Must be relevant to role in Pre-hospital
 3. Related activities
 - a. Includes:
 - i. Electronic learning:
 1. One point per hour
 2. Must be related to practice
 - ii. Journal article review:
 1. Two points per article

How does the programme help you meet the CPC Requirements:

Your CPC requirements are broken into two sections:

1. Practice Status, involving:
 - a. A statement of context:
 - i. We can assist you in writing this statement, if required
 - b. Evidence of at least 12 patient contacts per year
 - i. During your clinical placements, you will achieve a minimum of twelve patient contacts
 - c. Evidence of your current CPG status
 - i. In any year where PHECC releases an updated version of the CPGs, you will be able to attend one of our CPG Upskilling training days
2. Compulsory requirement including self-selected options:
 - a. Cardiac First Response (CFR):
 - i. Two points required per year:
 - ii. Where you are one year into each two year CFR Advanced certificate, CFR Refresher will be included
 - iii. Where your CFR Advanced certificate is expiring, CFR Advanced will be included
 - b. Mentor – Mentee:
 - i. Four points required per year
 - ii. During your clinical placements, you will be being mentored by the ambulance crew, fulfilling this requirement
 - c. Reflective practice/Case studies:
 - i. Four points required per year
 - ii. While you are on your clinical placements, you will be assisted by the ambulance crew with your Case Studies/Reflective Practice documents
 - d. Self selected options:
 - i. Eight points required per year
 - ii. Included in the programme is one of our Specialist Advanced courses, each of which earns you a minimum of eight points

Programme Content:

The programme contains the following elements:

1. Clinical placements:
 - a. Four shifts on one of our ambulances
 - b. Each shift will average at ten hours
 - c. Mentoring by Ambulance Crew during shifts
 - d. Assistance with Case Studies/Reflective Practice during shifts
 - e. Minimum of twelve patient contacts (Additional shifts will be arranged where twelve patient contacts are not achieved during the original allotment of four shifts, though this would be uncommon)
2. Cardiac First Response (CFR) Recertification or Refresher, as required
3. One of our Specialist Advanced Courses:
 - a. ACLS - Advanced Cardiac Life Support
 - b. PALS - Pediatric Advanced Life Support
 - c. PEARS - Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition and Stabilisation
 - d. AMLS - Advanced Medical Life Support
 - e. PHTLS - Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support
4. CPG Upskilling, where necessitated by release of updated CPGs by PHECC
5. Medicall Polo-shirt for use during clinical placements
6. Medicall ID Badge for use during clinical placements

Programme Requirements:

Participants are required to complete the following:

1. A Garda Vetting Form must be completed and submitted prior to clinical placements
2. Copies of PHECC Qualification Certificate, Registration Certificate and Registration Licence must be supplied before first placement
3. A photograph should be emailed in prior to first clinical placement to allow for printing of ID Badge
4. A copy of Patient Handling certificate must be supplied before first placement
5. A copy of CFR-Advanced certificate must be supplied before first placement