



SPECIALTY CARE TRANSPORT PARAMEDIC

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the initial training, credentialing, and continuing education requirements of the Specialty Care Transport Paramedic.

POLICY

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CCEMT-P: Critical Care Emergency Medical Technician. Paramedic as certified through the University of Maryland-Baltimore Critical Care Transport curriculum.

CCP-C: Critical Care Paramedic – Certified

CICP: Certified Intensive Care Paramedic. Paramedic as certified through the Cleveland Clinic Certified Intensive Care Paramedic curriculum.

FP-C: Flight Paramedic – Certified

Medical Director: The physician at the Agency or system level authorizing practice at the SCT level.

MICP: Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic certification as issued by Monroe Community College.

Specialty Care Medical Control: On-line medical control provided specifically for the Specialty Care Transport team by the Agency Medical Director.

Specialty Care Transport Intern: SCT certified (CCEMT-P, CCP-C, CICP, FP-C, MICP) individual undergoing internship and not credentialed to practice at the SCT level without peer supervision.

Specialty Care Transport Paramedic: Has completed the SCT internship program, and is credentialed by the Regional EMS Medical Director to provide Specialty Care Transports in the Monroe-Livingston EMS Region. This individual has the ultimate responsibility for the care of the patient and the well being of the transport crew. He/She must maintain contact with the patient from the hand-off of care at the sending facility to the hand-off of care at the receiving facility. He/She is responsible for communication with medical control, transport reports and documentation.

Specialty Care Transport Preceptor: Individual credentialed to evaluate and document the performance of an SCT Intern.

Specialty Care Transport Chief Paramedic: Individual designated by an agency to represent that organization's Specialty Care Transport program to the Medical Director and to the REMAC.



Standard Medical Control: On-line medical control provided for all field providers by designated hospitals.

CHANGE OF STATUS/ROLE

ACHIEVING ACTIVE STATUS

Requirements – Current EMT-P with 2 years experience and a recommendation from the agency SCT Chief. SCT Paramedic must be a current RSI technician or in the process of completing RSI training. SCT paramedic will need to take and pass the SCT protocol test. All documents and credentials must be submitted for review to the SCT committee. All SCT paramedics must complete an approved internship with their respective agencies. All SCT Paramedics are required to have a certification through CCP-C or FP-C.

CLEARANCE OF THE SCT PARAMEDIC

The clearance process will include agency specific training and attendance to the SCT Regional Conference. The clearance process for the individual paramedics will take place through their respective agencies and will include successful completion of an internship that is approved by the SCT committee as detailed later in this policy.

PROBATIONARY STATUS OF THE SCT PARAMEDIC

All SCT Paramedics will be on a probationary period for at least a year after clearance by their respective agencies. The probationary period can be extended at the discretion of the SCT Chief, Agency Medical Director, or Regional Medical Director.

MAINTENANCE OF ACTIVE STATUS

An SCT Paramedic must complete a minimum of 3 Specialty Care Transports (1 actual transport and at least 2 simulations) in any 12-month period. In the event that this quota is not reached, the SCT Paramedic must complete a Specialty Care Transport under the supervision of a Specialty Care Transport Preceptor and must re-credential with the Specialty Care Transport agency medical director. SCT Paramedics will need to have attendance at 4 yearly in-services and one regional meeting with attendance reported to the SCT Committee yearly.

All SCT Paramedics must be reviewed and re-credentialed yearly by the Agency Medical Director with appropriate documentation submitted yearly. This review must at least take the form of QA and medical director review. SCT paramedics will be regionally credentialed paramedics in accordance with the REMAC ALS Credentialing Requirements.

All SCT Paramedics must complete annual continuing education requirements as detailed later in this policy.

SUSPENSION

The SCT Paramedic will be suspended from his/her role in the event any of the above listed requirements are not met. Immediate reinstatement to his/her role will occur if the specialist re-credentials within three months from the suspension date. If the specialist fails to re-credential within the given time period, he/she will be required to repeat the internship period.



NOTIFICATION OF STATUS

The Regional EMS Medical Director must be notified immediately in the event that the status of an SCT Paramedic changes.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An SCT Paramedic may request a leave of absence of up to 1 year from SCT transports. The request must be done in writing and sent to the Agency Medical Director. The Medical Director may reinstate the paramedic without any formal retraining or reclearance, if in the opinion of the Medical Director the paramedic provided appropriate care before requesting a leave. If concerns exist regarding the paramedic's skills due to the leave of absence, the Medical Director can require any of the following – specific remediation, demonstration of skill proficiencies, performance of transport(s) with an SCT Paramedic Preceptor, or full reclearance

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GREATER THAN ONE YEAR

For a leave of absence greater than 1 year, the SCT Paramedic will be required to complete a full reclearance and internship. If the leave of absence includes a leave from all ALS activities entirely, the Specialty Care Transport Paramedic will also be required to fully reclear at the ALS level prior to reclearing at the SCT level. There are no exceptions.

SCT PARAMEDIC INTERNSHIP

The SCT Paramedic Internship is a structured program used to evaluate and document the performance of an individual who has completed required didactic coursework to operate as an SCT Paramedic. Internship is required for newly certified SCT Paramedics and for those who have been absent from the specialty care setting for an extended period of time.

The internship period should be used for familiarization with equipment, procedures, and documentation requirements. Orientation to an individual organization's policies, procedures, and equipment shall be done according to that organization's procedures and will not be included in the scope of this document.

The following are the *minimum* expectations for authorization to provide Specialty Care Transport in the Monroe-Livingston Regional EMS System, and may be exceeded by individual organizations.

INTERNSHIP PERIOD

Entry to an SCT Paramedic Internship is open to all currently certified NYS EMT-Paramedics with two years of experience who hold a current CCENT-P, CACP, MICP, CCP-C OR FP-C certification, and can produce verification of all other requirements. The SCT Chief Paramedic or his/her designee shall complete the SCT Internship Registry Form and present it to the Regional EMS Medical Director. The intern has six months to complete the internship. If after six months, the Intern has not successfully completed the program, the SCT Chief Paramedic may request a three month extension from the Agency Medical Director. Approval will be based on the SCT Chief Paramedic's recommendation.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE INTERNSHIP

If the internship is not completed after the three month extension, the Intern and his/her SCT Chief Paramedic shall communicate with the Agency Medical Director to review progress, discuss alternatives,



and determine the viability of the SCT Paramedic Intern as an SCT provider. With agreement of the Regional EMS Medical Director, an additional three month extension may be granted.

If the Intern violates the terms of the agreement or fails to complete the requirements of the Internship, the agency can terminate the internship. The Intern and Regional EMS Medical Director shall be notified of the termination. If an Intern fails to complete his/her internship at one agency, then he/she can attempt internship at another agency with the agreement of the new agency's SCT Chief Paramedic and Medical Director.

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Demonstration of knowledge and skills competency
2. Demonstrated knowledge of the Monroe-Livingston Regional SCT Protocols
3. Completion of required education as approved by the Agency Medical Director
4. A *minimum* of nine transports including at least one acute mechanical ventilation transport. There will also need to be at least six other simulated transports, two of which will involve trouble shooting mechanical ventilation. The SCT Chief Paramedic should assure that the transports reflect a varied set of patients
5. Clearance recommendations from two SCT Paramedic Preceptors (based on observed patient transports) to practice as an SCT Paramedic. Agency SCT Chief Paramedic and Agency Medical Director approval.
6. Agency Medical Director approval

DOCUMENTATION

All SCT training shifts will be documented on the *Specialty Care Transport Evaluation Form* or an acceptable equivalent. All positive and constructive commentary shall be discussed, documented and the appropriate forms should be signed by both Preceptor and Intern. These sheets will be retained by the organization for use in the clearance decision and as part of the Specialty Care Transport Paramedic's permanent record.

All documentation regarding the SCT Paramedic's training and internship will be retained by the Agency as specified in the approved SCT QA/QI plan.

INTERNSHIP CONTENT

An Intern may practice only under the direct supervision of a credentialed Monroe-Livingston Regional EMS System SCT Preceptor that is approved to precept for that agency.

The Intern must be able to competently demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of regional and SCT Protocols with successful passing of the SCT protocol test.
2. Knowledge and proper use of SCT specific equipment



3. Proper and aseptic technique for all parenteral skills
4. Proper patient assessment, diagnosis, and appropriate treatment decisions
5. Skill in interpretation of patient ECG's and lab values
6. Proper airway management skills including suctioning of the patient with airway adjuncts
7. Knowledge and proper use of mechanical ventilation and troubleshooting ventilators
8. Knowledge and proper use of pharmacological interventions
9. Documentation skills

CLEARANCE

Only calls taken during the official internship period may be counted toward clearance of the Intern. Once the internship requirements have been completed, the SCT Chief Paramedic and the Agency Medical Director should review all documentation and determine if the Intern is ready to be cleared. Clinical training requirements may be completed prior to the start of the official internship.

The Intern must express agreement to be cleared before the SCT Chief Paramedic can proceed. If after review, the SCT Chief Paramedic and Agency Medical Director are not completely satisfied with the performance of the Intern, he/she may recommend continued training with periodic reviews. The SCT Chief Paramedic should document said reasons and discuss them with the Intern. This documentation should include any recommendations for remediation.

INTERNSHIP COMPLETION

Upon successful completion of the prescribed internship program, the SCT Chief Paramedic shall do the following:

1. Complete the SCT Registry Form. The Registry Form shall be forwarded to the Monroe-Livingston Regional Program Agency for addition of the new provider to the SCT Registry.
2. Complete and sign the SCT Internship Completion Form and forward to the Monroe-Livingston Regional Program Agency for inclusion in the regional provider database.

APPEALS

Appeals to this procedure shall be directed to the SCT Committee and if needed to the Regional EMS Medical Director.

AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Due to the critical nature of the patients transported by the Specialty Care Transport teams, each agency must devise and implement a 100% QA/QI program and upon request submit the program to the REMAC for review.

Each Agency providing SCT Level transports within the MLREMS region shall submit, yearly, a summary of their QA/QI program to the SCT Committee for review. This review is due by July 30th of each year.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing education requirements for Specialty Care Transport Paramedics include: didactic, interactive skills labs and independent, self-study totaling a minimum of 24 hours per year. This shall include the following:

Maintain CME requirements for CCPC, FPC as outlined by...

1. SCT Paramedics must obtain at least four hours of clinical CME with up to (no more than) 12 hours counting toward the 24 hour goal with at least 4 hours of respiratory clinical CME
2. SCT Paramedics must obtain at least 12 hours of didactic CME with up to (no more than) 20 hours counting toward the 24 hour goal
 - a. Up to 6 hours of Self Study
 - b. No more than 8 hours of MLREMS Program Agency sponsored/approved lectures
 - c. No more than 8 hours of Agency Sponsored Lectures
 - d. No more than 6 hours of Hospital sponsored events/vendor events/conferences

The SCT Paramedic must attend four quarterly in-service trainings (one hour CME each) as given by their respective agencies or other SCT agencies in the region. The SCT paramedic will be required to attend the Regional Training Conferences that will be given annually.

The training year for SCT Paramedic Continuing Education is July 1 through June 30. The Agency SCT Medical Director must sign off on each SCT Paramedic's Continuing Medical Education requirements at the end of each year.

SCT PARAMEDIC PRECEPTOR

An SCT Preceptor is a knowledgeable person, credentialed to practice as an SCT Paramedic in the MLREMS region, who meets the qualifications listed below. The Preceptor serves as an evaluator who identifies areas of excellence and areas of required improvement on the performance of an SCT Intern. The Preceptor should "refrain from acting" unless patient care may be compromised. The Preceptor is a teacher to the student/Intern.

For consideration, a candidate must inform the SCT Chief Paramedic of his/her intent to become a preceptor. The preceptor candidate must be a Regional Preceptor. The candidate may then be recommended by the SCT Chief Paramedic appointed by the Agency Medical Director, and reviewed by the SCT Committee in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Preceptor Qualifications

The Preceptor Candidate must have served as a Specialty Care Transport Paramedic for a minimum of one year and be a regional preceptor.

The following qualifications are subjective in nature and are to be assessed by the SCT Chief Paramedic and Agency Medical Director:

- Demonstrates ability for instruction and guidance of those persons training under them
- Demonstrates exceptional initiative and competency in knowledge and skills
- Excellent communication skills



- Excellent documentation skills

2. Preceptor Approval

The SCT Chief Paramedic must submit a completed preceptor recommendation form to the Regional EMS Medical Director for final approval. The SCT Paramedic's status as a Preceptor will be updated in the regional provider database.

3. Maintenance of Preceptor Status

The SCT Chief Paramedic will review preceptor status for all SCT Preceptors annually. Review criteria will consist of:

- Preceptor is actively participating as an SCT provider
- Compliance with established Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements
- Record in good standing as a preceptor
- Teaching Continuing Education courses each year