



EMS Information Bulletin 2019-02

DATE: April 19, 2019

SUBJECT: EMS Student Clinical Experience

TO: PA Regional EMS Councils and Education Coordinators
EMS Educational Institutes and EMS Agencies
PA EMS Provider Candidates

FROM: Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. [unclear]', located to the right of the 'FROM:' field.

Recently, the Bureau of EMS received many questions about how EMS students are performing during clinical (in the hospital setting) and field (pre-hospital) settings. The following process should be used during the respective competency development process:

Clinical – All skills performed by the student must be within the National Scope of Practice for the course level that the student is enrolled. Before performing any skill, the candidate must have previously been guided through the didactic portion of the training program, in addition to successfully practicing the skill during skills laboratory settings. The skills being evaluated must be performed in an environment with a preceptor as designated by the facility. An EMS student may not go beyond the scope of practice of their assigned preceptor at any time.

Field – All skills performed by the EMS student must be within the current Pennsylvania Scope of Practice and adhere to the applicable level of Pennsylvania Statewide EMS Protocols. Skills must be evaluated by a credentialed EMS provider who is at or above the course level that the student is enrolled. Other approved preceptors could include a Registered Nurse, a Medical Doctor, or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. In all cases, the preceptor should be recognized by the Accredited EMS Educational Institute and its Medical Director, as a preceptor within the educational program.

Finally, all educational institutes should have a process established to allow for clinical and field preceptors to be aware of what skills and interventions their assigned student has been cleared to perform.

Please contact your regional EMS council for additional information.