

Policy:	Field Ride Outs with Paramedic Crews	
Owner of Policy:	Regional Medical Director, Regional Program Manager	
Department/Program:	Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program	
Approval By:	Director, Emergency Services & Base Hospital	Approval Date: May 2011

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POLICY

Emergency Medicine (EM) Residents are expected to participate in Field Ride Outs with [Paramedic](#) Crews as part of their training. Medical Students may elect to complete a [Regional Base Hospital Program \(RBHP\)](#) elective and participate in ride outs. The [RBHP Medical Directors](#) should have the opportunity to participate in ride outs as part of their [continuing medical education \(CME\)](#)/experience. A ride out consists of spending time with [Paramedics](#) and/or Supervisors to observe their daily work, provide evaluation of patient care practices and to provide teaching around observed cases/medical directives and medical aspects of the practice of paramedicine.

PROCEDURE

1. Medical Learners (i.e. medical students, residents and fellows) must contact the Local [Medical Director](#) or the [Medical Director](#) of Education to request a ride out. The appropriate [Medical Director](#) will approve and schedule the ride out in cooperation with the [Employer](#).
2. All Medical Learners participating in a ride out must complete the safety briefing and orientation provided by the [Employer](#).
3. All Medical Learners must sign a release and indemnity from the appropriate [Employer](#), which will be kept on record by the [Employer](#) for future ride outs. This form may require renewing and is at the discretion of the [Employer](#).
4. All ride outs must be scheduled through the [Employer](#) with notification to the [RBHP](#). At least two weeks' notice must be given to ensure sufficient time is available to schedule a ride out.
5. Ride outs may occur 24/7 with any of the [Employers](#) within the [RBHP](#). Ride outs must be approved by the Chief/Manager of the [Employer](#) or their designate.
6. Medical Learners are responsible for their own transportation to and from the [Paramedic](#) station.
7. A ride out may take place with a [Paramedic](#) Crew or a [Paramedic](#) Supervisor.
8. Upon approval of the [Paramedic](#) Chief/Manager or designate, the Medical Learner may switch ambulances or supervisor units during a ride out.
9. A hospital identification badge must be worn clearly identifying the Medical Learner.
10. Dress should be conservative (preferably blue or gray) and appropriate to the weather. Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved steel toe/sole footwear must be worn. It is the responsibility of the Medical Learner to have in their possession for use all personal protective equipment (PPE), such as but not limited to,

CSA safety helmet, safety goggles/glasses, CSA Z96-09 safety vest or jacket which is identifiable as a [RBHP](#) observer, N95 respirator or documentation of completed fit test for the respirator supplies by the [Employer](#) and any other items required by the [Employer](#) at the time of the ride out. The [Employer](#) and/or the Local [Medical Director](#) must ensure that the Medical Learner has been advised to refer to the [Employer's](#) policy for Health and Safety guidelines regarding ride outs.

11. During a ride out, the Medical Learner is under the overall supervision of the [Employer's](#) personnel. To maximize safety, the Medical Learner must follow any directions given to him/her from the [Paramedic](#) Crew, Supervisor, Chief/Manager or designate.
12. A ride out is primarily observational. Any direct care provided by an EM Resident or Fellow must be documented on the Ambulance Call Report (ACR) and signed by the EM Resident or Fellow.
13. Medical Students should not provide any direct patient care during the ride out except under exceptional circumstances. Any direct care by a Medical Student must be documented on the ACR and signed by the Medical Student.
14. EM Residents cannot delegate as [RBHP](#) Physicians to a [Paramedic](#) until completion of their Base Hospital Rotation.
15. If the EM Resident has not completed their [RBHP](#) Rotation, [Paramedics](#) must patch to the [RBHP](#) Physician according to the usual procedure.
16. Medical Students cannot delegate to a [Paramedic](#).
17. During a call, a [RBHP Medical Director](#) may delegate to a [Paramedic](#) according to the scope of practice of the Paramedic. Alternatively, during a ride out the [Medical Director](#) may request that the [Paramedic](#) patch to the [RBHP](#) according to usual procedure. Any medical procedures the Physician delegates to a [Paramedic](#) must be documented in the ACR.

DEFINITIONS

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

Means a medical education program and confirmation of its successful completion as approved by the Regional Base Hospital Program (RBHP)

Employer

Means an ambulance service operator certified to provide ambulance services as defined in the Ambulance Act.

Paramedic

Means a Paramedic as defined in subsection 1(1) of the Ambulance Act, and for purposes of this Standard a reference to the term includes a person who is seeking Certification as a Paramedic, where applicable.

Medical Director

Means a physician designated by a RBH as the Medical Director of the RBHP.

Regional Base Hospital (RBH)

Means a base hospital as defined in subsection 1(1) of the Ambulance Act, and provides an RBHP pursuant to an agreement entered into with the MOH.

Regional Base Hospital Program (RBHP)

Means a base hospital program as defined in subsection 1(1) of the Ambulance Act.

REFERENCES

[Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards Version 4.9](#)

Emergency Health Services Branch Ministry of Health, February 1, 2022