Loudoun County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

Advanced Life Support Policy #20

Authorization as Local ALS Preceptors

Origin: 04/02
Revision: 03/10

1. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

A. Be certified and locally authorized as an EMT-E or EMT-I/P for a minimum of two (2) years.

B. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

C. Be an active member of an affiliated Fire-Rescue EMS Agency in Loudoun County that is authorized by the Operational Medical Director to provide ALS care.

D. Have written endorsement of the ALS Agency Rescue Chief.

E. Be endorsed by the Advanced Life Support Committee of the Loudoun County EMS Council, Inc., and approved by the Operational Medical Director. The ALS Committee will determine the Preceptor level authorization.

2. PARTICIPANT TRAINING

A. Initial Certification

1. Attend a local Preceptor course offered by an instructor approved by the ALS Committee and the Operational Medical Director. Courses will be scheduled as needed by the ALS Committee through the LCFR EMS Training Division.

2. Successfully demonstrate protocol knowledge and ALS skills by successfully completing Preceptor pretest examination with a score of 90%.

3. The candidate must demonstrate effective communication skills by active participation in the Preceptor course.

4. The candidate must receive a positive recommendation from the course instructor to the ALS Committee for final approval.

5. A local authorization card will be issued by the ALS Committee of the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc.

B. Recertification

1. Preceptors are required to maintain active status as an ALS provider.

2. Preceptors are required to successfully complete a Preceptor Training program sponsored by the ALS Committee and are required to re-certify every three (3) years, at the time they complete Refresher training at their level of certification, to retain Preceptor privileges.

3. ALS PRECEPTOR AUTHORIZATION

A. ALS Preceptors will be authorized by the ALS Committee and the Operational Medical Director. These authorized Preceptors are the only individuals permitted to supervise and evaluate a Candidate's field practice.

B. Preceptors will be issued local authorization cards by the ALS Committee, endorsed by the Operational Medical Director, indicating the date of their authorization expiration. This identification card will clearly denote the certification level (EMT-E or EMT-I/P) that can be supervised by the Preceptor.

C. The ALS Committee reserves the right to revoke this authorization at any time.

D. A list of authorized Preceptors is accessible via computer assisted dispatch (CAD).

4. PRECEPTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Preceptors are required to document objective evaluation in the "comments" area of each Preceptorship form completed.

B. Preceptors are expected to discuss observed strengths and weaknesses with the Candidate at the conclusion of each supervised incident.

C. Preceptors are encouraged to "observe" the Candidate's performance, and intervene only when necessary.

D. An authorized ALS Preceptor must be physically present for a Candidate to perform ALS treatment or therapies not consistent with their current local authorization level.

E. Endorsing Preceptorship forms for performance not personally observed or finding of a similar infraction will result in revocation of authorization as a Preceptor.

F. A Preceptor may only evaluate one Candidate per patient. Two (2) Preceptors can evaluate two (2) Candidates at different levels on the same patient. No more than two (2) Candidates may be evaluated for a single patient.

G. Any issues or concerns about a Preceptor should be brought to the attention of the ALS Committee in writing for review. Final action will be taken in consultation with the Operational Medical Director and the Preceptor's Rescue Chief.

John T. Morgan, MD, OMD

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