



**REGION 11  
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM  
POLICY**

Title: Prehospital R.N.
Section: EMS Personnel
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: August 1, 2018

## **PREHOSPITAL R.N.**

- I. The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of EMS, Rules and Regulations defines a "Registered Professional Nurse/Prehospital R.N." as a registered nurse who has been approved by the EMS Medical Director in a Department approved EMS System, and who has satisfactorily completed additional supplementary training including, but not limited to, courses in extrication, medical oversight and communications, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, including defibrillation and intubation or its equivalent, and either Trauma Nurse Specialist or their equivalents, as approved by the EMS Medical Director.
- II. It is recognized that the provision of prehospital care requires the acquisition of a specialized body of knowledge and skills. Therefore, all persons licensed or recognized by IDPH to provide prehospital Advanced Life Support will demonstrate the same minimum mastery of cognitive objectives and psychomotor skills as set forth in the U.S. Department of Transportation Standardized Curriculum for Paramedics, irrespective of professional credentials, i.e., Paramedic or Prehospital R.N.

The National EMS Education Standards provide a national standard for ALS knowledge and skills and is competency-based, e.g., students must demonstrate their ability to perform to acceptable standards in both the classroom and clinical settings (in-hospital and field environments).

- III. Nurses in the Region 11 EMS System desiring to be approved as Prehospital R.N.'s shall complete the following requirements:

### **A. PRE-REQUISITES TO DIDACTIC COMPONENT**

1. Current certification as an Emergency Communications R.N. (ECRN) within the Region 11 EMS System
2. Registered Professional Nurse with current licensure in the State of Illinois
3. Current CPR recognition
4. Clinical practice in Emergency or Critical Care Nursing (2 years full time employment, approximately 4000 hours)
5. Written approval to ride with, or evidence of employment by an Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service Provider in the Region 11 EMS System
6. Complete all system entry requirements at the paramedic level

### **B. DIDACTIC COMPONENT**

1. Prior nursing knowledge and clinical experience may exempt a candidate from selected portions of the curriculum, through competency-based testing.



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2. Arrangements will be made to provide the applicant access to a paramedic training course or a portion of that course that includes:
  - a. Division 1, Prehospital Environment, Sections 1 through 7 of the D.O.T. Standard curriculum for paramedics.
  - b. Extrication didactic and practical
  - c. Pharmacokinetics
  - d. Dysrhythmia identification, therapeutic modalities, defibrillation, intubation and management of cardiac resuscitation (or the American Heart Association ACLS course)
  - e. A prehospital trauma support course or its equivalent as approved by the System Medical Director. Some approved courses include BTLS, PHTLS, TNS, and TNCC.
3. Applicants should contact their EMS Resource Hospital Coordinator for full details regarding course requirements, challenge exams and approved equivalencies.

**C. SKILLS COMPONENT**

Certain skills not inherent to the hospital-based R.N.'s scope of practice must be obtained through the paramedic course curriculum. Mandatory skill competencies are as follows: Airway management skills lab, cardiovascular management skills lab, pediatric intubation/intraosseous infusion skills lab, rescue and patient packaging skills lab, extrication class and lab, trauma procedures skills lab.

**D. CLINICAL COMPONENT**

1. Prerequisite: Individual malpractice insurance to cover EMS activities or documentation of coverage under employer.
2. All Prehospital R.N. applicants must complete or show prior completion of clinical rotation in the following hospital areas within the last year:
  - a. Obstetrics (to include nursery) -- 16 hours
  - b. Operating Room/Anesthesia -- 8 hours
  - c. Pediatrics (ER) -- 16 hours
  - d. ALS Ambulance Observation -- 16 hours

**IV. PREHOSPITAL R.N. TESTING (EMS Rules Section 535.820)**

- A. Upon completion of training, the Prehospital R.N. candidate shall be required to pass both didactic and practical examinations, if such examinations are required for paramedics within the System. The Prehospital R.N. examination shall cover the Prehospital R.N. training components and be otherwise equivalent to the paramedic examination.



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- B. Each Prehospital R.N. applicant will have to successfully complete all written and practical examinations with a minimum score of 75%. All testing and retesting shall be arranged with the EMS Resource System Coordinator.
- C. Testing and retesting polices shall be equivalent to those for Paramedics in the Region 11 EMS System (see EMS Personnel Relicensing/Reregistration Requirements policy).

**V. FIELD EXPERIENCE**

- A. Once course and testing requirements are successfully completed, Prehospital R.N. candidates must complete the same field internship requirements as student paramedics in the Region 11 EMS System within six (6) months of completion of didactic requirements.
- B. This internship must be arranged by the Prehospital R.N. candidate and approved by the EMS MDC Education Committee.

**VI. PREHOSPITAL R.N. APPROVAL**

- A. Upon successful completion of the preceding requirements, the EMS Medical Director shall add the individual to that list of system approved Prehospital R.N.'s, and notify IDPH.
- B. Applicants who choose to be recognized and are currently licensed as both paramedics and certified emergency communication nurses in compliance with the above requirements and functioning within the Region 11 EMS System may apply for additional recognition as a Prehospital R.N.

**VII. PREHOSPITAL R.N. RENEWAL**

- A. Maintain yearly CME requirements according to System requirements or equivalent (as approved by the EMSMD) for Paramedics (see Continuing Education Testing and EMS Personnel Relicensing/Reregistration Requirements policies).
- B. Maintain current CPR recognition on file with Resource Hospital
- C. Maintain current Registered Professional Nurse Licensure within the State of Illinois on file with Resource Hospital
- D. Prehospital R.N.s who have attained this recognition based upon ECRN and paramedic credentials must maintain their current status including all mandatory CME requirements as listed in the policy manual for paramedics and ECRN's. While remaining current with the dual status, no additional requirements will be required unless specifically designated by the EMSMD.