



Central Shenandoah Emergency Medical Services Council

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Skills Drill Policy

Policy: Advanced life support (ALS) providers¹ in the CSEMS Council region must successfully complete a minimum of two (2) skills proficiency evaluations (skills drills) each calendar year, and may not miss consecutive skills drills, to maintain active ALS privileges. Triannual skills drills are conducted at multiple locations in the months of February, June and October.

Procedure: Skills drills are conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. All providers are required to take a written examination based on the current CSEMS Council Prehospital Standard Patient Treatment Protocols. A passing score on the written test is 80%.
2. A provider scoring less than 80% on the written test is be required to complete a skill evaluation station. Successful completion of the skill evaluation station negates a failing score on the written test.
3. A lottery is conducted to randomly select 25% of the providers present at the drill to complete a skill evaluation station. The remaining providers that score 80% or better on the written examination are excused from the drill after completing any additional educational components of the session.
4. Any currently suspended provider is required to complete a skill evaluation station.
5. A provider that scores less than 80% on the written test and/or fails the skill evaluation station is given an opportunity to retest at the same skills drill or another skills drill during the month. If the provider elects to attend a second skills drill, the provider must register for that drill. Approval to attend the second drill will be contingent on the number of providers registered for the drill and the evaluator staffing arranged for the drill.

An ALS provider's privileges are suspended if the provider:

1. Misses more than one skills drill during the calendar year.
2. Misses consecutive skills drills.
3. Fails the prescribed testing at a skills drill.

An ALS provider's privileges are reinstated after successfully completing a regularly scheduled skills drill.²

Agency leadership and Operational Medical Directors are automatically notified by the CSEMS Council, within two weeks of a skills drill cycle, that an ALS provider has failed to comply with skills drill requirements or has failed a skills drill.

Suspended ALS providers are permitted to perform ALS skills if they are under direct supervision³ of a CSEMS Council regional preceptor that is authorized to precept at the suspended provider's level.

- Exemptions:**
1. Agencies may elect to exempt career ALS personnel from skills drills. Each career agency that desires to exempt personnel from a skills drill is required to submit a roster of active personnel during each skills drill month. Providers that hold volunteer affiliation, who are not listed on a career agency roster, will be required to abide by skills drill requirements.
 2. ALS providers enrolled in an ALS course that increases their level of training will be exempt from skills drills that fall within the course dates (e.g. EMT-Enhanced provider

enrolled in an EMT-Intermediate program). The provider is responsible to provide written notice to CSEMS Council when enrolled in such a program.

3. ALS providers who take a leave of absence are responsible to provide written notice to the CSEMS Council. Providers returning to active duty may not resume active ALS privileges until successfully completing a skills drill.

Passes: A provider that attends a skills drill, who satisfactorily completes a skill evaluation station following selection by the lottery, will be provided a pass that can be applied to exempt him/her from a subsequent skill evaluation station, subject to the following conditions:

1. The pass must be used in the same calendar year.
2. The pass may not be used if the provider is required to take the skill evaluation station due to failure of the written skills drill examination.
3. The pass may not be used if the provider is required to take the skill evaluation station due to failure of a previous skill evaluation station.
4. The provider must present the original pass issued at the prior skills drill.
5. The pass is non-transferable.

When a provider presents a pass at a skills drill, a substitute lottery number will be drawn to replace the exempt provider.

- Notes:**
- ¹ EMT-Enhanced, EMT-Intermediate, EMT-Paramedic, Shock Trauma Technician and Cardiac Technician.
 - ² Providers desiring to be reinstated may not participate in a skills drill that occurs in the same month as the skills drill resulting in the suspension.
 - ³ Working at the side of the ALS provider either on the scene or in the back of an ambulance constitutes direct supervision.