



Mark Resanovich, Chair
Amy Raubenolt, M.D., Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director



Department of
Public Safety
Ohio Emergency Medical Services

State of Ohio Division of EMS
Paramedic Core Competency Recertification Toolkit
October 14, 2025

Purpose:

To provide an option for the Paramedic level of recertification based upon core competencies that does not require a set number of hours. This option for recertification is based on the EMS agency and their EMS medical director.

Core Competencies:

Core competency-based training is verified by the EMS medical director. Education should be tailored to the specific needs of the EMS providers being certified and the communities they serve. Training shall consist of at a minimum:

- (1) Assessment and management of adult, geriatric, pediatric, and obstetric patients.
- (2) Airway and ventilatory management knowledge and skills.
- (3) Cardiac arrest management.
- (4) Hemorrhage control and splinting procedures.
- (5) Intravenous and intraosseous therapy.
- (6) Dementia training required by Ohio Revised Code.
- (7) Other competencies assigned by the EMS medical director.

Audits:

When the core competency option is chosen for recertification, the provider will still be subjected to an audit period. If an audit is conducted by the State of Ohio, only verification of the signatures of the EMS agency's supervisory designee and their EMS medical director will be verified. It is recommended that the EMS agency and the EMS medical director create and maintain records of the process used to demonstrate core competencies were met.

Robert L. Wagoner, Executive Director
1970 W. Broad Street
P.O. Box 182073
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2073 U.S.A.

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Considerations:

- (1) The decision to recertify with the core competency option rests completely with the EMS agency's supervisory representative and the EMS medical director of that agency.
- (2) The EMS medical director must be intimately involved with the training and approval of the certified Ohio paramedic's ability to function at the level of their certification.
- (3) The EMS agency and their EMS medical director are accepting responsibility for competency in the specific skill or service for which training is provided when authorizing a provider to choose this option for recertification.
- (4) EMS agencies shall maintain training records, and these records shall be available to an employee who leaves the agency during their recertification cycle. If a paramedic pursuing this recertification option leaves for another agency that does not use this option, the training records can help prevent lapses in their certification. Ideally, a copy of the training records should be provided to the paramedic prior to, or at the time of, their departure from the EMS agency at which the training was completed.
- (5) Paramedics can demonstrate a core competency through active patient care at an agency. If patient encounters are being utilized to support meeting specific core competencies, the EMS agency should maintain a written and/or electronic case log of the encounters being used to support competence.
- (6) Training should satisfy any EMS training provisions required by law.