


County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department



Emergency Medical Services Agency
976 Lenzen Avenue, Suite 1200
San José, CA 95126
408.885.4250 voice 408.885.3538 fax
www.sccemsagency.org

July 12, 2010

To: Santa Clara County EMS System Stakeholders
From: Josh Davies 
Section Manager
Subject: Open Comment Period –
Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policy #216

The Santa Clara County EMS Agency announces the open comment period for the following:

- Policy #216: Technical Competency Review Program (NEW)

This policy is will remain open for comment through **August 16, 2010** at **5:00 pm** and is anticipated to become effective in January 2011.

Thank you for your continued support of our Emergency Medical Services System. If you should have any questions or wish to provide comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Kirsten Muehlenberg, EMS Specialist, at Kirsten.Muehlenberg@phd.sccgov.org.

Attachments:

- Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policy #216



County of Santa Clara Emergency Medical Services System

Policy #216: *TECHNICAL COMPETENCY REVIEW PROGRAM*

TECHNICAL COMPETENCY REVIEW PROGRAM

DRAFT

Effective Date XX
Replaces New

Resources
None

I. Purpose

To establish a formal mechanism for the annual review of various emergency medical services related skills including verification of technical competency.

II. Administrative Components

- A. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), paramedics, flight nurses, and Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICNs) working for a Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Provider Agency or hospital must complete the annual Technical Competency Assessment (TCA) identified in this policy beginning January 2011.
- B. The TCA may be integrated into existing provider agency training and shall represent the minimum required review.
- C. Each provider agency shall integrate the TCA into their Emergency Medical Services Quality Improvement Plan (EQIP).
- D. Failure to complete the annual TCA will result in loss of ability to practice as a paramedic, EMT, flight nurse, or MICN in Santa Clara County until completed and may subject the individual to censure.
- E. Each provider agency shall submit verification that all personnel have completed the TCA as part of the Annual EMS System Update using the appropriate form.

III. Technical Skills Competency Components

- A. The EMS Medical Director has determined that the following technical skills shall be demonstrated annually.
1. Pleural Decompression
 2. Intraosseous (adult and pediatric)
 3. Endotracheal Intubation (adult and pediatric)
 4. King Airway Management Device
 5. External Cardiac Pacing and Cardioversion
 6. General Pharmacology (emphasis on pediatrics and infusion calculation)

Each EMT, paramedic, flight nurse, and MICN must demonstrate competency using verification checklists provided by the EMS Medical Director for items contained in III, A, 1-6.

Verification check lists will be updated periodically with input provided by the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC).

- B. The following technical skills shall be reviewed semi-annually.
1. Against Medical Advice/Refusal of Care/Release at Scene
 2. Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START)
 3. Centralized Patient Routing
 4. Multiple Patient Management Plan

EMTs, paramedics, flight nurses, and MICNs are not required to demonstrate these skills (“hands on”); provider agencies shall integrate the review of these items into their EQIP. This may be accomplished through newsletters, system-wide triage tag events, patient care report review, peer review, bulletins, exercises, etc.

- C. In addition to III (A) and III (B) private ambulance service EMTs, paramedics, and Accredited EMS Field Supervisors must also complete the following review annually.
1. Emergency Decontamination
 2. Shelter in Place
 3. Personnel Accountability Reporting
 4. Centralized Patient Routing