



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Team Leads

February 2025

#### 1. What happened to field internship? I no longer see that term referenced.

The term “field internship” has historically been used to denote any scheduled time in the field with an EMS agency. The field internship consists of two components, the field experience and the capstone field internship. Programs are encouraged to adopt these designations.

**Field experience** is planned, scheduled, educational student time spent on an EMS unit, which may include observation and skill development, but does not include the capstone field internship. Field experience can begin early in the program or scheduled at the conclusion of the clinical phase at the discretion of the program.

**Capstone field internship** provides an opportunity for students to assess and manage patients in the prehospital environment in the role of team leader. The capstone field internship must occur after all core didactic, laboratory, and clinical experiences are completed.

#### 2. Is there a standardized definition of a team lead?

A definition of a team lead is found in the CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP 2023 *Standards and Guidelines*:

The student has successfully led the team if they have conducted a comprehensive assessment (not necessarily performed the entire interview or physical exam, but rather were in charge of the assessment), and formulated and implemented a treatment plan for the patient. This means that most (if not all) of the decisions were made by the student, especially formulating a field impression, directing the treatment, determining patient acuity, and disposition and packaging/moving the patient (if applicable). Minimal to no prompting was needed by the preceptor. No action was initiated/performed that endangered the physical or psychological safety of the patient, bystanders, other responders, or crew.

#### 3. Does the student need to complete all the skills on a call for it to be a team lead?

The student must be responsible for the choreography of the scene and directs all patient care. It is not necessary for the student to perform all the skills, or any individual skills, outside of assessment.

#### **4. How many team leads does the CoAEMSP recommend**

CoAEMSP recommends 30 encounters during the field experience when the student conducts a competent assessment and management of prehospital patients with assistance while functioning as a team leader or team member.

During the capstone field internship CoAEMSP recommends 20 encounters where the student manages the scene, performs patient assessment, directs medical care and transports with minimal to no assistance.

#### **5. How many team leads are required?**

The program *determines* the minimum number of successful team leads required based on input from the communities of interest that include the Advisory Committee members, employers, the medical director, faculty; evaluation of student competencies; and other programmatic assessment of successful outcomes.

#### **6. Do all team leads have to occur in the capstone field internship?**

Students may successfully perform as a team leader during the field experience phase; these contacts do *not* count toward the requirement for the capstone field internship.

#### **7. Is there a requirement for the number or percentage of ALS team leads in the capstone field internship?**

CoAEMSP makes no recommendations regarding the number or percentage of ALS team leads during the capstone field internship. However, programs and States may have requirements related to the number of ALS calls required and what constitutes an ALS call.

#### **8. Can interfacility transfers count as teams leads?**

Interfacility transfer calls do not typically meet the assessment and management criteria. The goal of the capstone field internship is response in a 911 system. For an interfacility transfer to be documented as a patient contact during the field experience or the capstone field internship, the patient must be transferred to a higher level of care requiring assessment and management.

#### **9. Can we use a non-transporting agency for the capstone field internship?**

The student must accompany the patient during transport to a medical facility.

#### **10. Who should precept capstone field internship team leads?**

Ideally, preceptors should be selected by joint agreement of the program director or clinical coordinator and the EMS agency. Preceptors should be experienced field providers, be engaged with the precepting process, and must receive preceptor training by the paramedic program. If more than one preceptor is assigned during this phase, there must be a process for the preceptors to assess the student's prior experience and performance.

**11. If a student is missing a few team leads, can they be simulated?**

Capstone field internship team leads cannot be accomplished with simulation.

**12. Remind me, when the capstone field internship occurs?**

The capstone field internship must occur *after* all core didactic, laboratory, and clinical experiences are completed.