



Credible education
through accreditation

Committee on Accreditation
of Educational Programs for the
Emergency Medical Services Professions

CAAHEP Board Approves the 2023 CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the EMS Professions

April 2023

During its March 2023 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) approved the revised [CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in the Emergency Medical Services Professions](#) (the *Standards*). These *Standards* were last revised in 2015. CAAHEP requires that each Committee on Accreditation (CoA) review and revise the *Standards* specific to their profession at least every ten years.

The *Standards* review process began in early 2021 when CAAHEP released the latest *Standards* template. The CoAEMSP process included numerous drafts, review by the CoAEMSP Board of Directors, distribution to the CoAEMSP sponsors, posting on the website, holding an open comment period, an additional review by the CoAEMSP sponsors with letters of endorsement from the twelve sponsor organizations, and, finally, an open hearing was held by CAAHEP on the *Standards* in January 2023.

The revised *Standards* for Paramedic programs will be effective January 1, 2024, and are posted [here](#). The changes that reflect additions or revisions include the following:

1. Addition of "have a preparedness plan in place that assures continuity of education services in the event of an unanticipated interruption."
2. Revision of the required minimum goals and expectations statement to remove the exit points at EMT, AEMT, or EMR language.
3. Removal of the required key governmental official representative on the Advisory Committee.
4. Specifies that the Medical Director be board certified or equivalent.
5. Addition of language that the program identifies assignment of clinical coordinator responsibilities. This is not a requirement for a new position; however, the responsibilities must be identified and assigned to a faculty member.
6. Appendix B now reflects the curriculum/competencies from the National EMS Education Standards.

Language modifications are listed below.

1. Recommendation that the Medical Director be board certified in EMS medicine or emergency medicine. (guideline only)
2. Associate Medical Director language changed to "authorized to practice in the state in which assigned program activities occur."
3. Assistant Medical Director language added, "participating in clinical rotations, field experience, and capstone field internship".
4. Publications and disclosures added identifying "occupational risks" in addition to technical standards.

5. Outcomes reporting language was expanded: "If established outcomes thresholds are not met, the program must participate in a dialogue with and submit an action plan to the CoAEMSP that responds to the identified deficiency(ies). The action plan must include an analysis of any deficiencies, corrective steps, and timeline for implementation. The program must assess the effectiveness of the corrective steps".

Approximately one-half of the *Standard's* language is template verbiage used across all the CAAHEP Committees on Accreditation. The remaining revisions included updates and changes to the location and flow of various elements.

A plan for transition to the 2023 *Standards* is briefly listed below.

Programs that receive a notice to submit an Initial/Continuing Self-Study Report (I/CSSR):

- Before October 1, 2023, will use the 2015 *Standards*.
- Between November 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, may choose to use the 2015 or the 2023 *Standards*.
- On or after January 1, 2024, will be reviewed under the 2023 *Standards*.

Programs submitting a Letter of Review Self-Study Report (LSSR):

- Before April 1, 2024, will use the 2015 *Standards*.
- Between April 1 and December 31, 2024, may choose to use the 2015 or the 2023 *Standards*.
- After January 1, 2025, will use the 2023 *Standards*.

The transition period recognizes that programs wishing to be early adopters in the latter half of 2023 can select either the 2015 or 2023 *Standards*. By mid-2024, all self-study reports received must be based on the 2023 *Standards*.

Implementation and transitions can be confusing, and the CoAEMSP staff can assist programs with questions. CoAEMSP will host a webinar to review the changes and timelines, so watch for more information in the monthly e-newsletter.