

Procedure:	Field Ride-Outs with Paramedic Crews	
Owner of Policy:	Manager, Education	
Department/Program:	Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program	
Endorsed By:	Director, Southwest Centre for Prehospital Medicine	Endorsement Date: May 2025
Original Effective Date:	May 2011	Date Reviewed: May 2026

POLICY

Emergency Medicine (EM) Residents are expected to participate in Field Ride-Outs with Paramedic Crews as part of their training. Medical Students may elect to complete a Regional Base Hospital Program (RBHP) elective and participate in ride-outs. The RBHP Medical Directors should have the opportunity to participate in ride-outs as part of their continuing medical education (CME). In unique circumstances, the SWORBHP leadership team may request that a SWORBHP staff member attend a ride-out for the purpose of education or quality assurance. A ride-out consists of spending time with paramedics and/or Supervisors to observe their daily work, provide evaluation of patient care practices, and provide teaching around observed cases, medical directives, and medical aspects of the practice of paramedicine.

PROCEDURE

1. Medical Learners (i.e., Medical Students, Residents, and Prehospital and Transport Medicine Area of Focused Competency [PTM-AFC] candidate physicians) and staff must contact the Local Medical Director (LMD) or the Medical Director of Education to request a ride-out. The appropriate Medical Director will approve the request and schedule the ride-out in cooperation with the Employer.
2. All Medical Learners and staff participating in a ride-out must complete the safety briefing and orientation provided by the Employer.
3. All Medical Learners and staff must sign a release and indemnity from the appropriate Employer, which will be kept on record by the Employer for future ride-outs. This form may require renewing and is at the discretion of the Employer.
4. All ride-outs must be scheduled through the Employer with notification to the RBHP. At least two weeks' notice must be given to ensure sufficient time is available to schedule a ride-out.
5. Ride-outs may occur 24/7 with any of the Employers within the RBHP. Ride-outs must be approved by the Chief/Director/Manager of the Employer or their designate.
6. Medical Learners and staff are responsible for their own transportation to and from the Paramedic station.
7. A ride-out may take place with a paramedic crew or a Paramedic Supervisor.
8. Upon approval of the Paramedic Chief/Director/Manager or designate, the Medical Learner and staff may switch ambulances or supervisor units during a ride-out.
9. A hospital identification badge must be worn clearly identifying the Medical Learner and staff.
10. The dress should be conservative (preferably blue or gray) and appropriate for the weather. Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved steel-toe/sole footwear must be worn. It is the responsibility of the Medical Learner and staff to have all personal protective equipment (PPE) in their possession for use, such as but not limited to, CSA safety helmet, safety goggles/glasses, CSA Z96-09 safety vest or jacket which is identifiable as a RBHP observer, N95 respirator or documentation of completed fit test for the respirator supplied by the Employer, and any other items required by the Employer at the time of the ride out. The Employer and/or the LMD must ensure that the Medical Learner and staff have been advised to refer to the Employer's policy for Health and Safety guidelines regarding ride-outs.

11. During a ride out, the Medical Learner and staff are under the supervision of the Employer's personnel. To maximize safety, the Medical Learner and staff must follow any directions given to him/her from the Paramedic Crew, Supervisor, Chief/Director/Manager, or designate.
12. A ride-out is primarily observational. Any direct care provided by an EM Resident or PTM-AFC candidate physician must be documented on the Ambulance Call Report (ACR) and signed by the EM Resident or PTM-AFC candidate physician.
13. Medical Students and staff should not provide any direct patient care during the ride-out except under exceptional circumstances. Any direct care by a Medical Student or staff member must be documented on the ACR and signed by the Medical Student or staff member.
14. Medical Students and staff cannot delegate to a Paramedic.
15. During a call, an RBHP Medical Director or PTM-AFC candidate physician may delegate to a paramedic in accordance with the scope of practice of the paramedic. Alternatively, during a ride-out, the Medical Director or PTM-AFC candidate physician may request that the paramedic patch to the RBHP according to the usual procedure. Any medical procedures that the Physician delegates to a paramedic must be documented in the ACR.

REFERENCES

[Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards Version 5.4](#)
Emergency Health Services Branch, Ministry of Health