



New York State
Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

POLICY STATEMENT

Supersedes/Updates: Policy Statement 93-01

No. 00-09

Date: 09/25/00

Re: Certified First Responder

Page 1 of 2

**Functional Position Description
Certified First responder (CFR)**

Purpose:

Provide a guide for anyone who is interested in understanding what qualifications, competencies and tasks are expected of the CFR.

Qualifications:

- Complete the *Application for Emergency Medical Services Certification* (DOH-65), including affirmation regarding criminal convictions
- Successfully complete an approved New York State CFR course
- Achieve a passing score on the practical and written certification examinations
- Must be at least 16 years of age prior to the last day of the month in which they are scheduled to take the written certification examination
- Knowledge and Skills required show a need for high school or equivalent education
- Ability to communicate effectively via telephone and radio equipment
- Ability to lift, carry and balance up to 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance)
- Ability to interpret oral, written and diagnostic form instructions
- Ability to use good judgement and remain calm in high stress situations
- Ability to be unaffected by loud noises and flashing lights
- Ability to function efficiently without interruption throughout an entire work shift
- Ability to read English language, manuals and road maps
- Ability to accurately discern street signs and addresses
- Ability to interview patients, patient family members and bystanders
- Ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such
- Ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff with regard to the status of the patient
- Possesses good manual dexterity with ability to perform all tasks related to the highest quality patient care
- Ability to bend, stoop and crawl on uneven terrain
- Ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold and moisture
- Ability to work in low light situations and confined spaces
- Ability to work with other providers to make appropriate patient care decisions

Competency Areas:

- Patient Assessment
- Use of Basic Life Support Equipment within the scope of practice for the CFR
- Ability to perform Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Control Bleeding
- Provide non-invasive treatment for hypoperfusion
- Manage environmental emergencies
- Provide initial care in medical and trauma emergencies, and emergency childbirth

Description of Tasks:

Responds to calls when dispatched. Reads maps, may drive emergency response vehicle to emergency site using most expeditious route permitted by weather and road conditions. Observes all traffic ordinances and regulations.

Uses appropriate body substance isolation procedures. Assesses the safety of the scene, gains access to the patient, assesses extent of injury or illness. Communicates with dispatcher requesting additional assistance or services as necessary. Determines nature of illness or injury. Visually inspects for medical identification emblems to aid in care (medical bracelet, charm, etc.) Uses prescribed techniques and equipment to provide patient care. Provides additional emergency care following established protocols. Assess and monitor vital signs and general appearance of patient for change. Makes determination regarding patient status and priority for emergency care using established criteria. Reassures patient, family members and bystanders. Avoids mishandling patient and undue haste. Reports verbally and in writing, information gathered about patient's emergency and care rendered to EMT or AEMT in charge of ambulance crew on scene. Assists with lifting, carrying and properly loading patient into the ambulance.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities and arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene.

Replaces supplies, properly disposes of medical waste. Properly cleans contaminated equipment according to established guidelines. Checks all equipment for future readiness. Maintains emergency vehicle in operable condition. Ensures cleanliness and organization of emergency response vehicle, its equipment and supplies. Determines vehicle readiness by checking operator maintainable fluids, fuel and air pressure levels. Maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.