

Memorandum

To: CPNS Membership
From: Karl Kowalczyk, ED/Registrar
CC: CPNS Membership
Date: 21 July 2021
Re: Continuing Competency Program & Annual License Renewal during 2021 - 2022

Hello everyone:

At the April 30, 2021, Session 28 of Council, the Council for the College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia (the College) discussed the ongoing impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic is having, and may continue to have, on the ability of Registrants to obtain the continuing competency points required for the annual license renewal process.

Council acknowledged this continues to be an unprecedented time where the citizens of Nova Scotia are counting upon all regulatory bodies to support the healthcare system, while ensuring they met the public's expectation to protect their interests.

They noted under normal circumstances a Registrant is expected to accumulate the minimum number of points that are specified for each learning category, while ensuring they accumulate the overall 80 points required for each licensure year. Points are based upon:

- Section 1 – Self-Learning Activities (Mandatory)- Each hour of activity is valued at 1 point and a Paramedic must accumulate a minimum of 5 points under this category, but no more than 15 points may be used toward the overall 80 points required.
- Section 2 – Group-Learning Activities (Mandatory) - Each hour of activity is valued at 2 points and a Paramedic must accumulate a minimum of 6 points under this category.
- Section 3 – Certifications/Short Courses (Mandatory) - Each hour of activity is valued at 2 points and a Paramedic must accumulate a minimum of 4 points under this category.
- Section 4 – Interactive-Learning Activities/other than Certifications/Short Courses (Mandatory) - A Paramedic Competency Evaluation equals 4 points, while an M & M session equals 6 points. For all other activity under this section each hour of activity is valued at 2 points and a Paramedic must accumulate a minimum of 16 points under this category.
- Section 5 – Professional Development (Non-Mandatory) - Each hour of activity is valued at

Reflecting upon the current continuing competency requirements Council recognized that Registrants may continue to limit in their ability to obtain certain point requirements due to the restrictions putting in place under public health orders.

Therefore, Council has modified the requirements for the continuing competency program.

For a Registrant to renew their license before **March 31, 2022**, they will be expected to accumulate an overall **total of 70 points**, as opposed to the normal 80 points. Points will be based upon:

- Section 1 – Self-Learning Activities - Each hour of activity is valued at 1 point and a Paramedic may accumulate **an unlimited number of points** for this section, but between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022.
- Section 2 – Group-Learning Activities - Each hour of activity is valued at 2 points and a Paramedic must accumulate **a minimum of 6 points** under this category.
- Section 3 – Certifications/Short Courses - Each hour of activity is valued at 2 points; **however, it is not mandatory for a Paramedic to obtain any points** under this section between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022.
- Section 4 – Interactive-Learning Activities/other than Certifications/Short Courses – Each hour of activity is valued at 2 points, while a Paramedic Competency Evaluation equals 4 points and M & M session equals 6 points. A Paramedic must accumulate a **minimum of 12 points** under this category, however, **a paramedic simulated competency evaluation is not mandatory** for this section between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022.
- Section 5 – Professional Development - Each hour of activity is valued at 2 points and there is no minimum or maximum number of points required under this category.

The Continuing Competency Program & Annual License Renewal CPNS Information Guide/Logbook continues to contain the detail to identify and track the continuing competency points a Registrant requires but does not outline the changes described above; therefore, please ensure you have access to this memo for future reference as you work on obtaining your continuing competency points.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact Karl Kowalczyk at 902-223-8797 or karl.kowalczyk@cpns.ca.