20.8 Paramedic Radio Internship Protocol

RADIO INTERNSHIP PROTOCOL

The Radio Internship Protocol provides the opportunity 1) for Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) candidates to complete the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) requirements for certification through Harbor-UCLA Base, 2) for certified MICN’s to complete the Base Hospital requirements for radio operation authorization, and for 3) Harbor-UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine (DEM) residents to complete the requirements for becoming Base Station Physicians.

I. MICN CANDIDATE

1. Upon successful completion of the L.A. County certification examination, the MICN candidate will:

   a. Meet with the Prehospital care Coordinator (PCC) and/or Assistant Prehospital Care Coordinator (Asst. PCC) to receive an orientation to internship, and a demonstration of radio operations.
   b. Fulfill the requirements of the local EMS Agency, which include, satisfactory completion of a minimum of 10 runs, in the categories of ALOC, SOB, TRAUMA, and CARDIAC.
   c. Fulfill the requirements of Harbor-UCLA Base Hospital, which include the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 10 runs, in the run. (A simulated cardiac arrest run may be given if a candidate has completed all other aspects of orientation).
   d. Meet with the PCC or Asst. PCC periodically, to review runs and receive feedback on their performance.

2. Radio Internship Form and Scoring (See Appendix A)

   a. It is the responsibility of the intern to have the form completed and signed by the preceptor. The completed form, plus a copy of the run, will be left in the Radio Room to be turned in with the daily base forms, and tapes.
   b. The form will be initially completed by the preceptor.
   c. The PCC or Asst. PCC will then reevaluate the run and adjust the scores on the form accordingly.
   d. An overall score will be given to each run by the PCC or Asst. PCC. Satisfactory completion is considered to be a score of 3 or better.
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e. A minimum of 80% of the intern’s runs must be satisfactorily completed with a score of 3 or better.

3. Radio Internship Preceptors

   a. Preceptors will have a minimum of 6 months experience as a MICN at Harbor, senior DEM resident, or a DEM attending.
   b. The direction of the run will be the responsibility of the preceptor.
   c. Preceptors will directly observe the candidate in the process of taking paramedic runs.
   d. Director of a paramedic run by an intern without the observation of a preceptor will be considered grounds for failure.

4. Radio Operations

   a. Steps for operating the radio, telephone, HEAR radio, and autodialer.
   b. Location and use of HUCLA primary channel 4D, and back up channel 7D. (Channels other than 4D and 7D belong to other base hospitals, and therefore may not be used by this base).
   c. Steps of operating the Reddinet terminal.
   d. Use of FCC regulation call letters HUCLA KUQ 638.
   e. Appropriate record keeping skills for the Base Hospital Form, and the Base Hospital Referral Form.

5. Miscellaneous

   a. Other radio responsibilities which include notification of Tier I and Tier II trauma, and notification of helicopter runs.
   b. Importance of familiarity with miscellaneous prehospital forms and resource books, located in the radio room. These include the Emergency Preparedness Manual, Prehospital Care Policy Manual, and Base Hospital Treatment Guidelines.

6. Satisfactory completion of radio internship will require that the Base Hospital Medical Director (BHMD), PCC and Asst. PCC are in agreement that the intern has performed in a safe and competent manner in the area of assessment, treatment, verbal communication, or record keeping skills.
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7. Failure of orientation will require that the BHMD, PCC, and Asst. PCC are in agreement that the MICN intern has failed to perform in a safe and competent manner in either assessment, treatment, verbal communication, or record keeping skills.

   a. In the event of failure, the MICN intern may petition the BHMD and PCC to retake the internship. The petition must occur within 6 months of taking the L.A. County MICN certification, or Harbor-UCLA authorization exam.

I. CERTIFIED MICNS NOT SPONSORED BY HARBOR

   Currently certified MICNs, not sponsored by Harbor, requesting to intern on Harbor’s paramedic radios will:

   a. Provide proof of current Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider Course completion.
   b. Provide proof of current Los Angeles County MICN certification.
   c. Complete the Harbor-UCLA MICN authorization exam.
   d. Follow the procedures outlined above in sections 1-7.

II. DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE (DEM) RESIDENTS

   1. The second year DEM resident, who has successfully completed the Harbor-UCLA Base Station Physician Course will:

      a. Meet with the PCC or Asst. PCC to receive an orientation to internship, and a demonstration of radio operations.
      b. Fulfill the requirement of Harbor-UCLA Base which include the satisfactory completion of preceptored runs in categories such as ALOC, SOB, TRAUMA, and CARDIAC.
      c. Meet with the PCC, Asst. PCC or BHMD periodically to review runs and receive feedback on their performance.
      d. Follow the procedures outlined above in sections 2-6.
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2. Failure of orientation will require that the BHMD, PCC and Asst. PCC, are in agreement that the DEM resident has failed to perform in a safe and competent manner in either assessment, treatment, verbal communication, or record keeping skills.

   a. In the event of failure, the DEM resident intern will be required to repeat the radio internship until competency is achieved.