Purpose:

Provide guidelines for the orientation and training of ECPs employed by West Des Moines EMS at a level lower than Paramedic Specialist to transition into an advanced scope of practice as allowed by their State of Iowa Emergency Medical Technician certification level.

Policy:

1. Transitioning ECPs will be assigned to a Field Training Medic (FTM) after they provide proof of their advanced certifications as outlined by departmental policy.

2. The ECP will meet with their assigned FTM to schedule upcoming shifts. Those shifts must be scheduled with the FTM, as the FTM will be responsible for evaluating the progress and determining the readiness of the ECP to function at their advanced level. The transitioning ECP will schedule as many ride along hours as are needed to attend 15 ALS Team Leads. An ALS Team Lead is defined as a call in which the transitioning ECP is solely responsible for patient assessment and care. During this time, the ECP will be informed of the transition procedure and expectations as outlined below:

3. The Transitioning ECP will be familiar with and proficient in the following protocols upon successful completion of the Advanced Level Transition:

   - Medication Use and Administration
   - Assisted Administration of Patient Medications
   - 12-lead ECG application and interpretation
   - B.A.A.M. application and Use
   - Basic Life Support (Adult, Child, and Infant)
• Carbon Monoxide Monitoring
• Endotracheal Intubation
• External Cardiac Pacing
• Gastric Tube Placement
• IO Infusion/ Use of EZ IO
• IV Cannulation
• Use of KING LT-D
• Nasotracheal Intubation
• Needle Cricothyrotomy
• Needle Thoracostomy
• Ventilatory Assistance –Manual
• Use of Ventilator/Autovent
• Use of Physical Restraints
• Blood Glucose Testing
• Electrical Cardioversion
• S.T.A.R.T. Triage
• Assessment Based Immobilization
• Physician on Scene Protocol
• Implanted Vascular Access Device
• Patient Refusal of Care/Transport
• Documentation of Pt. Care
• Advanced Patient Assessment Protocol
• CPAP
• Restraint/Transport Against Patient Will

4. The FTM will complete an electronic evaluation form, which can be found on the EMS Shared drive, following each shift completed by the transitioning ECP. The FTM will monitor evaluation forms and place emphasis on any identified areas needing improvement. During this time, the transitioning ECP will be responsible for completing all areas of their assigned orientation booklet.

5. If the transitioning ECP is working as a second crewmember (at a basic level) during their transitional period, they may practice an advanced skill if an opportunity arises only when their partner at the time is a FTM for WDM EMS. Those skills will then be formally evaluated by that FTM and forwarded to the ECP’s assigned FTM. Note: These skills/encounters will not be considered a Team Lead.

6. After the ECP has completed the minimum 15 ALS Team Leads, and the FTM has determined that they are capable of functioning as an entry level Paramedic Specialist; the Deputy Chief of QA/Education will test the transitioning ECP in accordance with the Final Testing procedures as defined in the New Hire Orientation SOP.

7. After Successful completion of the Advanced Level Transition, Transitioning ECP will be eligible for Probationary Status as outlined in the New Hire Orientation SOP.