

While the goal of preventing commercialization of the Amateur Radio Service under existing rules has served everyone well, a limited exception may be warranted.

If a hospital can show documentation proving that a recent good faith effort to secure non-employee Amateurs to man their communications facilities during drills has failed, they may operate with employee Amateurs, provided those Amateurs are unpaid for the period of the drill.

Both the hospital and the Amateur Radio community are well served by having outside Amateur Radio operators involved in their planning and drills. Doing so ensures that lines of communication are maintained between the HAM community and the hospital that serves the community.

Involvement by local Amateur Radio groups means that the hospital gains the services of Amateurs well versed in the facilities available in the community, provides training to the Amateurs in what is expected by the hospital, and preserves the non-commercial character of Amateur Radio.

Providing the exception allows hospitals the freedom to meet their emergency communications needs, when local Amateur Radio groups are unable or unwilling to meet the need. but still requiring them to work to keep the Amateur Radio service non-commercial.