



The Registry

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY
MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

WWW.NREMT.ORG

The Nation's EMS Certification™

Your Transition Plan: From EMT-I/85 to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) Fall 2011

An Important Letter from the Executive Director You Will Soon be a Nationally Registered Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT)...

...and no longer an EMT-Intermediate/85. During the next four years everyone in EMS will be going through a "transition" from levels of certification designated in the 1980's to new titles with new interventions and responsibilities. These changes have been planned since 2000 and are being accomplished in conjunction with the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. Hundreds of national EMS leaders participated in discussions with states and stakeholders to help everyone arrive at this decision over the past 11 years.

This newsletter is being sent to you to outline specifically what YOU must do to become a Nationally Registered Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT).

First a little history regarding the EMS title of EMT-Intermediate/85 and the new Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. In the 1970's as EMS levels were being designated, certification and licenses were issued at two levels initially; EMT-Ambulance and EMT-Paramedic. During the late 70's and early 80's some states started their own designations at levels in between EMT-A and EMT-P. In the early 80's, in order to develop some national unity regarding those levels, states provided input to the NREMT Board of Directors and we adopted a new national certification; EMT-Intermediate.

In 1985 the Department of Transportation developed the first national standard curriculum for this new level of EMT-Intermediate. The 1985 course provided advanced knowledge and mainly three "advanced interventions" (at that time); IV's, MAST trouser application and use of the Esophageal Obturator Airway. Simply stated, EMT-I care centered on trauma patients. Soon after 1985 some states started adding "enhancements" (skills) to the Intermediate and others adopted a more expansive level called Cardiac Care which included some ACLS drugs. In 1994 a blue ribbon panel of EMS stakeholders gathered and endorsed the *EMS Education and Practice Blueprint*. That blueprint was to resolve the fragmented levels of Intermediates used across the nation. In 1999 the Department of Transportation, based upon the blueprint, developed a national standard curriculum for the EMT-Intermediate. Immediately it ran into political opposition and the National Association of State EMS Directors (now the National Association of State EMS Officials) asked the NREMT Board to continue to offer Intermediate certifications at both the former (I-85) and the new (I-99) designated levels.

Between 2004 and 2006 the National EMS Scope of Practice Model (SOP) was being developed. That group of stakeholders learned that by then there were over 30+

scopes of practices adopted by states at levels between EMT-B and EMT-P. The SOP task force wanted to reduce the fragmentation and thus the Advanced EMT level of care was born. As with any birth, now come the changes. Some I-85's have already enhanced their levels of state practice; others may have not. Some may even exceed the new Advanced EMT.

Regardless of those local decisions, the National Registry will continue to seek uniformity of minimal care provided by EMS professionals as prescribed in the *EMS Education Agenda* and many other national consensus documents. We will remain consistent with our goal to assure the knowledge and skills necessary to provide safe and effective practice. Within that context we are required to resolve what education each Intermediate has according to what his or her state has adopted. It is a resolution that cannot be fully managed from Columbus, Ohio. Therefore, sometime over the next two recertification cycles, you will have to complete a state approved EMT-I/85 to AEMT transition course. At the end of that course you'll have to take a course ending practical examination and then take and pass the new Advanced EMT National EMS Certification Examination in order to be an NRAEMT.

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The new AEMT patch.

LOOK FOR YOUR SPECIAL EMAIL NEWSLETTER

To keep you informed of important news and updates, we have sent you an email newsletter to the email address you indicated in your NREMT online profile. Be sure your NREMT account is current!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Learn what YOU need to do to transition from I/85 to the new AEMT level as determined by the new Scope of Practice.

NREMT SEEKS CANDIDATE FOR AT-LARGE BOARD POSITION

The NREMT is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the at-large position on its Board of Directors. This candidate will bring a high level of expertise in his/her respective field.

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NREMT Transition Policy

Adopted June 8, 2011

The NREMT Board of Directors is committed to implementation of the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. Included within this agenda is the National EMS Scope of Practice Model. Therefore, in order for NREMTs to maintain National EMS Certification, as outlined in the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future*, all NREMTs must meet the minimum requirements of knowledge and skills outlined in the National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

"Board Position" cont. from pg. 1

This candidate will also help lead the NREMT in transitioning to the new Scope of Practice provider levels, and implementing the requirement for students applying to take the NREMT exam to have graduated from an accredited paramedic educational program. As an at-large member, this candidate will represent the membership as a whole rather than representing a specific area of expertise.

The NREMT is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of twenty-one representatives from all segments of the EMS community as well as a public representative. Board members are committed to public protection and quality patient care. Members of the Board are elected in November of each year and begin their four-year terms on January 1. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Past President and Immediate Past President serve as the Executive Committee. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and CV/Resume by Oct 15, 2011 to:

Nominations Committee,
c/o NREMT, P.O. Box 29233,
Columbus, OH 43229.

EMT-Intermediate/85 to Advanced EMT (AEMT)

All NREMT-Intermediate/85s will have two registration cycles (four years) to complete a state approved Intermediate/85 to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) transition course in order to be eligible for National EMS Certification as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT).

To be awarded National EMS Certification as an NRAEMT all NREMT-Intermediate/85s after completing the approved transition course must successfully complete the NRAEMT computer delivered cognitive examination and a transition course-ending practical examination within the past two years that validates competency over the following skills:

- Patient Assessment/Management - Medical
- Airway Ventilation and Oxygenation of an Infant/Child in Respiratory Distress/Failure
- Cardiac Arrest Management /AED
- Intravenous Bolus Medications
- Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion

Completion of a transition course that is state approved must be validated by attending and successfully completing a course that issues a certificate that contains:

- NREMT-Intermediate/85's name
- transition course completion date
- the following statement: "[your name] has completed a state approved EMT-Intermediate/85 to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) transition course including successful completion of a course-ending practical examination."
- the name of the sponsoring agency
- signature of the individual responsible for the training

The individual skills below should also be listed on the certificate:

- Patient Assessment/Management-Medical
- Airway Ventilation and Oxygenation of an Infant/Child in Respiratory Distress/Failure
- Cardiac Arrest Management/AED
- Intravenous Bolus Medications
- Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion

NREMT-Intermediate/85s must complete an online application, including submission of a \$70.00 application fee and successfully complete the NRAEMT cognitive examination prior to their Intermediate/85 expiration date.

Intermediate/85s who are unable to successfully complete the NRAEMT cognitive exam by their expiration date will be issued an NREMT certification and have 2 years from date of lapse to obtain NRAEMT certification provided they meet all NREMT requirements currently in effect.

All Intermediate/85s transitioning will have a maximum of six attempts to successfully complete the NRAEMT cognitive exam.

Any Intermediate/85 transitioning who fails six attempts will be required to successfully complete an entire AEMT education program to regain eligibility to apply for NRAEMT.

NREMT-Intermediate/85s who submit an acceptable recertification application but do not include successful completion of a state-approved transition course from EMT-Intermediate/85 to AEMT will be issued National EMS Certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) upon reaching their expiration date of March 31, 2015 or 2016.

Additional Content That May Be Included

Extraglottic airways—not intended for insertion into the trachea / Humidified oxygen / ATV

Mechanical CPR device / Pharmacology / Still only AED

Partial rebreather mask, simple face mask, Venturi mask, tracheostomy mask

Tracheobronchial suctioning of an already intubated patient

Mechanical patient restraint / Blood glucose monitoring / IO access in peds

Aspirin / NTG / Autoinjector for self or peer care / Naloxone

Inhaled beta agonists for wheezing / Nitrous oxide (self-administered for pain)

IMPORTANT TO NOTE! You may already be performing some of these interventions under the authority of your State EMS office rules and regulations or by your local treatment protocols.

YOUR Steps to Transition (I/85 to AEMT)

1. Ask your Training Officer when the State-approved EMT-Intermediate/85 to Advanced EMT (AEMT) transition course will be offered (or contact your State EMS Office for information)
2. Complete the transition course during one of your next two recertification cycles
3. Obtain a completion certificate for the course
4. Make sure the certificate includes:
 - your name
 - the date of the course
 - the statement: “[your name] has completed a state approved EMT-Intermediate/85 to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) transition course including successful completion of a course-ending practical examination.”
 - the name of the sponsoring agency and the signature of the instructor
 - the following individual skills:
 - A) Patient Assessment/Management - Medical
 - B) Airway Ventilation and Oxygenation of an Infant/Child in Respiratory Distress/Failure
 - C) Cardiac Arrest Management /AED
 - D) Intravenous Bolus Medications
 - E) Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion
5. Log in to your NREMT account
6. Complete an AEMT transition application, including submission of a \$70.00 application fee
7. Successfully complete the NRAEMT cognitive examination prior to your 2015 or 2016 Intermediate/85 expiration date
8. Provide the certificate along with your other recertification materials to the NREMT by your recertification deadline (March 31)

Failure to provide the required documentation within two recertification cycles will result in your being issued National EMS Certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) upon reaching your expiration date of March 31, 2015 or 2016.

“Letter” cont. from pg. 1

The NREMT Board of Directors and the State EMS Officials EMS Education Agenda Implementation team determined the only method in which the NREMT could validate that new NRAEMTs possess the requisite knowledge at this level was to securely “test” that knowledge base. It was not a decision taken lightly by the NREMT. We follow every attempt to protect the public through valid decisions. The known gap between the minimum I/85 practice and the new AEMT practice was too great to award certification without cognitive measurement validation; a test. Detailed information regarding these requirements and how to apply for the new certification are included in this newsletter.

The NREMT has worked with the National Association of State EMS Officials EMS Education Agenda Implementation Team to develop the policies that require you to complete or possess transition education. However, each of the 50 states in the U.S. may adopt a variety of policies and educational interpretations regarding what you will need to do to complete the “transition.” Because of the state variations, the NREMT has implemented a standardized reporting process, outlined in this newsletter, that you will need to follow to maintain your National EMS Certification and become an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. Please note, the education you must complete, the course length and locations are under the direction of your State EMS Office. If you telephone the NREMT with questions on where to attend these courses, or what you need to do to obtain the education, the NREMT will be referring you to your respective State EMS Office.

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**National Registry of
Emergency Medical Technicians®**
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“Letter” cont. from pg. 3

The NREMT is requiring the education as part of our continued certification process but we do not offer the education. Providing EMS education is a state or local EMS system responsibility. We will recognize your state approved education and we are requesting that your education course completion certificate indicate that you have completed a “transition/refresher” course. Once the education has been completed you will be required to complete an end-of-course practical examination that uses the new NREMT Advanced EMT Skill instruments. After you pass that practical examination you will need to take the new National EMS Advanced EMT Certification Examination. This is a computer based examination that will be delivered at a Pearson VUE test center. You will need to complete an online application. Instructions on how to validate your course and apply for the new certification examination are available in this newsletter.

Part of the mission of the NREMT is to assure uniform requirements are met by all those who possess and display the “NR” post-nominals. Certification that is standardized across states and throughout the nation assures the public, public officials, state licensing agencies, EMS medical directors, employers, fellow EMS providers and most importantly your patients that you possess and meet uniform certification requirements designed to help assure safe and effective practice.

Sincerely,

William E. Brown, Jr.
Executive Director

PLANNING TO PURSUE NATIONAL EMS CERTIFICATION AT THE PARAMEDIC LEVEL?

Seek an Accredited Education Program!

The NREMT Board of Directors made the decision in 2008, that beginning on January 1, 2013, new enrollees in Paramedic programs who will be seeking the NREMT National EMS Certification at the Paramedic level must have successfully completed education from an accredited program or one that is seeking accreditation sponsored by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

The decision to require a single national accreditation agency for Paramedic educational programs follows the recommendations of the *National EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. Implementation of accreditation has been recommended in the *Institute of Medicine Report EMS at the Crossroads*.

The Accreditation policy can be reviewed on the NREMT website (www.nremt.org) under General Policies.