

Intent

This policy specifies the certification scheme for the Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Responder (NREMR) certification, including scope of certification, job and task description, required competence, required abilities, prerequisites and applicable code of conduct.

Scope

This certification scheme applies only to the Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Responder (NREMR) certification.

Definitions

EMR- Emergency Medical Responder

Certification – National Registry verification that an individual possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities (competencies) to do a job as defined by the requirements of the certification scheme.

Recertification -Renewal or maintenance of certification in which stated requirements are met.

Policy

Scope of Certification

This certification is aligned with the EMR role as defined by the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model (NASEMSO, 2019) which states:

“The EMR is an out of hospital practitioner whose primary focus is to initiate immediate lifesaving care to patients while ensuring patient access to the emergency medical services system. EMRs possess the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional EMS response and rely on an EMS or public safety agency or larger scene response that includes other higher-level medical personnel. When practicing in less populated areas, EMRs may have a low call volume coupled with being the only care personnel for prolonged periods awaiting arrival of higher levels of care. EMRs may assist but should not be the highest level person caring for a patient during ambulance transport. EMRs are often the first to arrive on scene. They must quickly assess patient needs, initiate treatment, and request additional resources” (p. 25).

Job and Task Description

This certification is aligned with the EMR role as defined by the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model (NASEMSO, 2019). This document describes the EMR role as

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- “Function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, community, health, or public safety system with clinical protocols and medical oversight.
- Perform basic interventions with minimal equipment to manage life threats, medical, and psychological needs with minimal resources until other personnel can arrive.” (p. 25).

The National Registry performs a Practice Analysis in accordance with the *National Registry Practice Analysis Policy*. The latest National Registry Practice Analysis identifies the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities for the profession. The current EMR certification scheme is based on the 2014 National Registry Practice Analysis (National Registry of EMTs, 2015).

Required Competence

The NREMR certification is designed to verify minimum entry level competency for EMRs.

Required Abilities

The National Registry does not assess the abilities required for EMRs but requires the verification of abilities by a process approved by the State EMS Office.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites to certification include:

1. Successful completion of a state approved EMR course that meets or exceeds the current National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for the Emergency Medical Responder (NHTSA, 2009).
 - a. Candidates must have completed the course within the past two years and the course Program Director must verify successful course completion on the National Registry website.
 - b. If the EMR completed an initial educational program more than two years ago and the candidate is currently state licensed at the EMR level, the candidate must document proof of education requirements. The following methods are acceptable:
 - i. Successful completion of a state approved EMR refresher course
 - ii. 8 hours of continuing education that meets all requirements of the current National Component of the 2016 National Continued Competency Program (National Registry of EMTs, 2016).
2. A current AHA BLS for "Healthcare Provider" or equivalent credential.
3. Successful completion of a State EMS Office approved assessment of psychomotor skills within the past 24 months.

Code of Conduct

The *National Registry Code of Conduct* (see reference) applies to all National Registry certificants.

Criteria for Initial Certification

1. Documented completion of all prerequisites.
2. Successful completion of the National Registry EMR cognitive examination per the requirements of relevant policies.
3. Met the eligibility requirements of the *Terms of Certification* and *Criminal Conviction Policy*.

Certification Period

1. The time period of certification for the NREMR certification is two years.
2. Initial expiration dates are determined by the date the candidate successfully completes the entire national certification process (cognitive and psychomotor exams). EMR candidates completing the national certification process between the January 1 and June 30 will receive an expiration date of September 30 two years in the future. Individuals successfully completing the national certification process between July 1 and December 31 will receive an expiration date of September 30 three years in the future.
3. Recertification expiration dates are two years from the expiration date of the prior period.

Criteria for Recertification

1. Met the eligibility requirements of the *Terms of Certification* and *Criminal Conviction Policy*.
2. Recertification can be accomplished by either continuing education or examination.
 - a. Complete sixteen hours of approved continuing education after the initial date and before the expiration date of the certification. Continuing education must be accepted by the State EMS Office or accredited by CAPCE (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
 - i. The objectives of the current National Component of the 2016 National Continued Competency Program (National Registry of EMTs, 2016) must be met, consisting of at least eight hours of approved continuing education. No more than three hours of the National Component can be distributive education (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
 - ii. At least four hours of state accepted or CAPCE accredited continuing education for the Local Component of the National Continued Competency Program, meeting any State or Local requirements. No more than three hours of the Local Component can be distributive education (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
 - iii. At least four hours of state accepted or CAPCE accredited continuing education for the Individual Component of the National Continued Competency Program (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
 - b. Successful completion of the National Registry EMR cognitive examination not more than one year before the current certification expiration date. Only one attempt at the examination is allowed. If a passing score is not achieved, continuing education can be used if completed within the certification period (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).

3. Completion of the recertification application and paid appropriate fees.
4. Verification of continued competency of skills and abilities by the local Training Officer.
 - a. If verification cannot be provided, recertification is allowed as inactive. Verification of continued competency for skills and abilities by a local training officer is required to convert inactive status to active status.

Criteria for Suspending and Withdrawing Certification

The criteria for withdrawing and suspending certification are specified by the *Terms of Certification* and *Disciplinary Action* policies.

Criteria for Changing the Scope of Level of Certification

In the event of a significant change in the scope of the certification, the National Registry releases a *Transition Policy* to implement the change in scope, including the required assessments (See reference Transition Policy).

Rationale

The certification scheme is developed with an objective of providing assurance that a person who seeks or maintains national EMS certification meets specific requirements and demonstrated competency. Recognition of competence through the achievement of national certification leads to increased public confidence and protection of the public.

The certification practices of the National Registry are consistent with the ISO 17024:2012 standards and current National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) standards. The assessment and examination practices of the National Registry are consistent with current APA AERA NCME Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing and National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) standards.

Related Policies and Procedures

Practice Analysis Policy

Code of Conduct

Exam Validity Policy

Examination Administration Policy

Criminal Conviction Policy

Standard Setting Policy

Terms of Certification Policy

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Disciplinary Action Policy

Transition Policy

References

American Educational Research Association., American Psychological Association., National Council on Measurement in Education., & Joint Committee on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (U.S.). (2014). *Standards for educational and psychological testing*.

International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnician Commission (ISO/IEC). (2012). *ISO/IEC 17024:2012*. Geneva, Switzerland.

National Association of State EMS Officials. 2019 *National EMS Scope of Practice Model* (Report No. DOT HS 812-666). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

National Commission for Certifying Agencies. (2014). *NCCA Accreditation Standards*. Washington, DC; Institute for Credentialing Excellence

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). (2009). *National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards*.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (2015). *2014 National EMS Practice Analysis*. Columbus, Ohio.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (2016). *National Continued Competency Program: EMR Education Update*. Columbus, Ohio

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Document History

2019-08-16	Created
2019-11-12	Presented to National Registry Board of Directors. Approved for public comment period.
2020-04-15	Presented to National Registry Board of Directors. Postponed approval due to more information requested for implementation on inactive status for NREMRS.
2020-06-05	Approved by National Registry Board of Directors with an effective date of March 18, 2021.