Intent

This policy specifies the certification scheme for the Nationally Registered Paramedic (NRP) 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 Paramedic (NRP) certification.

Definitions

NRP – Nationally Registered Paramedic

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

Recertification – The renewal or maintenance of certification in which stated requirements are met.

Re-entry - A pathway in which the candidate's state EMS license or National Registry certification has expired.

Policy

Scope of Certification

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

> The paramedic is a health professional whose primary focus is to respond to, assess, and triage emergent, urgent, and non-urgent requests for medical care, apply basic and advanced knowledge and skills necessary to determine patient physiologic, psychological, and psychosocial needs, administer medications, interpret and use diagnostic findings to implement treatment, provide complex patient care, and facilitate referrals and/or access to a higher level of care when the needs of the patient exceeds the capability level of the paramedic. Paramedics often serve as a patient care team member in a hospital or other health care setting to the full extent of their education, certification, licensure, and credentialing. Paramedics may work in community settings where they take on additional responsibilities monitoring and evaluating the needs of at-risk patients, as well as intervening to mitigate conditions that could lead to poor outcomes. Paramedics help educate patients and the public in the prevention and/or management of medical, health, psychological, and safety issues (p. 28).

Job and Task Description

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

- "Function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, community, health, or public safety system with advanced clinical protocols and medical oversight.
- Perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance, including diagnostic equipment approved by an agency medical director.
- May provide specialized interfacility care during transport.
- An important link in the continuum of health care" (NASEMSO, 2018, p.28).

The National Registry conducts a practice analysis at least every five years 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 NRP certification scheme is based on the 2014 National Registry Practice Analysis (National Registry of EMTs, 2015).

Required Competence

The National Registry paramedic certification is designed to verify minimum entry-level competency for paramedics.

Required Abilities

The National Registry of EMTs assesses required abilities through a formal psychomotor verification process administered by an official National Registry Examination Representative. Psychomotor skills must be demonstrated according to criteria set by the Paramedic Psychomotor Examination Policy.

Code of Conduct

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

Prerequisites

Prerequisites to certification include:

1. Current National Registry certification (NREMT) or state license at the EMT level, or higher.
2. Successful completion of a CAAHEP-accredited Paramedic program (or a program that has been issued a CoAEMSP "Letter of Review") that meets or exceeds the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for Paramedic (NHTSA, 2009).
3. All Paramedic candidates who started their Paramedic education program after August 1, 2016 are required to complete a psychomotor competency portfolio.

4. *Education Requirement:* All candidates for National EMS Certification at the Paramedic level whose Paramedic program began on or after January 1, 2013 must have successfully completed Paramedic education from an accredited program sponsored by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or one who held a valid Letter of Review (LOR) issued by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). See additional requirements for the specific pathways below:

    a. *Program completed within 2 years:* 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. *Currently state-licensed and program completed more than 2 years ago:* If the initial Paramedic or equivalent state-recognized Paramedic educational program was completed more than two years ago and the candidate is currently state licensed at the Paramedic level or an equivalent state-recognized Paramedic level, the candidate must document verification of the current state license and proof of education or continuing education requirements. For proof of education, select one of the following methods:

        i. Successful completion of a state approved Paramedic refresher course or

        ii. 30 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).

            1. All education must have been completed within the last 2 years. Two-year course eligibility is based on the date of the last documented course.

    c. *Re-entry (lapsed) and program completed more than 2 years ago:* If a candidate's Paramedic state license, including an equivalent state-recognized Paramedic certification, or National Paramedic Certification has lapsed, the candidate is considered to be re-entry and must document proof of 60 hours of continuing education that meets all requirements of the 2016 National Continued Competency Program (National Registry of EMTs, 2016) .

        i. Completion of a DOT Paramedic (NRP) Training Program must be completed after January 1, 1977.

        ii. All submitted education must have been completed within the last 2 years. Two-year course eligibility is based on the date of the last documented course.

5. A current AHA BLS for "Healthcare Provider" or equivalent credential

6. Successful completion of the National Registry Paramedic Psychomotor Examination within the past 24 months

7. Successful completion of the National Registry Paramedic Cognitive Examination within the past 24 months

<u>Criteria for Initial Certification</u>

1. Documented completion of all prerequisites including successful completion of the National Registry cognitive and psychomotor examinations.
2. Met eligibility requirements of the *Terms of Certification* and *Criminal Conviction Policy*

<u>Certification Period</u>
1. The time period of certification for the NRP 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). Paramedic candidates completing the national certification process between the January 1 and June 30 will receive an expiration date of March 31 two years in the future. Individuals successfully completing the national certification process between July 1 and December 31 will receive an expiration date of March 31 three years in the future.
3. Recertification expiration dates are two years from the expiration date of the prior period.

<u>Criteria for Recertification</u>
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 sixty 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 thirty hours of approved continuing education. No more than ten hours of the National Component can be distributive education (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
      ii. At least fifteen 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 ten hours of the Local Component can be distributive education (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
      iii. At least fifteen 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 NRP cognitive examination on 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 for skills and abilities by the local Training Officer and Medical Director.
    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. Certificants may request to drop to a lower level certification. If they wish to regain the certification level, they will need to follow the appropriate prerequisites for certification.

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
Criminal Conviction Policy
Terms of Certification Policy
Disciplinary Action Policy
Transition Policy
Request to Drop to a Lower Certification Level

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 Analysi*s. Columbus, Ohio.

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

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (2019). *Recertification Guide*. Columbus, Ohio

Document History

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