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 including candidates and certificants.

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 (NHTSA, 2021) 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. An EMR 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. 18).

Job and Task Description

This certification is aligned with the EMR role as defined by the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model (NHTSA, 2021). This document describes the EMR role as

- "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.
- Are an important link in the 9-1-1 and emergency medical services system" (p. 18).

The National Registry conducts 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 most recently published National Registry Practice Analysis.

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.

Code of Conduct

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

Prerequisites to Certification

EMS Program Course Completion within 2 years (Initial):

1. Successful completion of a state-approved Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course or completion of a higher-level state-approved EMS course that meets or exceeds the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for the Emergency Medical Responder (NHTSA, 2021).
2. Submission of a completed application with course completion verification from a state-approved EMS Program Director and applicable payment.
3. Successful completion of a State EMS Office approved BLS skills competency requirement within the past 24 months.

4. Successful completion of the National Registry EMR computer-based certification examination within 24 months.

Current State-Licensed EMR Candidates:

1. Must have successfully completed a state-approved Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course or completion of a higher-level state-approved EMS course that meets or exceeds the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for the Emergency Medical Responder (NHTSA, 2021) and was completed more than two years ago.
2. Submission of a current, active EMR state license, equivalent state-recognized EMS level, or higher-level state EMS license.
3. Submission of the required number of continuing education credits aligned with the current model of the National Component of the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP).
    a. The National Component for EMR is 8 continuing education credits. See NCCP model for specific criteria on content domain requirements.
        i. 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.
    b. Continuing education credits must adhere to the National Registry Accepted Education and Documentation Policy, Standardized Course Credits Policy, and Academic Credit Policy which includes education that is CAPCE-accredited or accepted by a State EMS Office, or, if a college or U.S. university course, it must be from an accredited institution and related to EMS patient care.
4. Submission of a completed application with applicable payment.
5. Successful completion of the National Registry EMR certification examination.
    a. Results are valid 24 months.

Re-entry (lapsed National Registry and/or state EMS license):

If a candidate's National Registry EMR certification has lapsed and the candidate does not have a current state EMS license as an EMR, the candidate must obtain National Registry certification through the initial certification pathway as documented above.

<u>Criteria for Initial Certification</u>

1. Documented completion of all prerequisites including successful completion of the National Registry computer-based certification examination and State EMS Office approved BLS skills competency requirement.
2. Met the eligibility requirements of the *Terms of Certification.*

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 (BLS skills requirements and computer-based certification examination). EMR candidates completing the national certification process between 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.*
2. Recertification can be accomplished by either continuing education or examination.
    a. Complete sixteen credits 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.
        i. The objectives of the current National Component of the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) must be met, consisting of at least eight credits of approved continuing education.
        ii. At least four credits of state accepted or CAPCE accredited continuing education for the Local Component of the National Continued Competency Program, meeting any State or Local requirements.
        iii. At least four credits of state accepted or CAPCE accredited continuing education for the Individual Component of the National Continued Competency Program.
    b. Successful completion of the National Registry EMR computer-based certification 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.
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 Policy and Procedures

Code of Conduct
Exam Validity Policy
Examination Administration Policy Standard Setting Policy
Terms of Certification Policy
Disciplinary Action Policy
Retest Policy

References

Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E). (2021). *NCCA accreditation standards*.

- Standard 3: Education, Training, and Certification
- Standard 6: Information for Candidates
- Standard 7: Program Policies

International Organization for Standardization. (2012). *ISO/IEC 17024:2012: Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*.

- Standard 7: Records and information requirements
- Standard 8; Certification schemes
- Standard 9: Certification process requirements

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). (2021). *National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards*.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). August 2021. National EMS Scope of Practice Model 2019: Including Change Notices 1.0 and 2.0 (DOT HS 813 151). Washington, DC: US Department of Transportation.

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*.

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 (v1).
2020-06-05	Approved by National Registry Board of Directors with an effective date of March 18, 2021 (v2)
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2021-06-09	Approved by National Registry Board of Directors – Technical Edits (v3)
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2024-04-26	Updated for Motion 24-04 Removal of BLS CPR requirements (v5)
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