Intent

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

Scope

This certification scheme applies to Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) certificants and candidates.

Definitions

EMT – Emergency Medical Technician

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

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

Policy

Scope of Certification

This certification is aligned with the Emergency Medical Technician role as defined by the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model (NHTSA, 2021) which states:

> "An EMT 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 knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and medical transportation to/from an emergency or health care facility. Depending on a patient's needs and/or system resources, EMTs are sometimes the highest level of care a patient will receive during an ambulance transport. EMTs often are paired with higher levels of personnel as part of an ambulance crew or other responding group. With proper supervision, EMTs may serve as a patient care team member in a hospital or healthcare setting to the full extent of their education, certification, licensure, and credentialing. In a community setting, an EMT might visit patients at home and make observations that are reported to a higher-level authority to help manage a patient's care. When practicing in less populated areas, EMTs may have low call volume

coupled with being the only care personnel during prolonged transports. EMTs may provide minimal supervision of lower-level personnel. EMTs can be the first to arrive on scene; they are expected to quickly assess patient conditions, provide stabilizing measures, and request additional resources, as needed" (p. 19).

Job and Task Description

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

- Function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, community, health, or public safety system with defined clinical protocols and medical oversight.
- Perform interventions with the basic equipment typically found on an ambulance to manage life threats, medical, and psychological needs.
- Are an important link within the continuum of the emergency care system from an out of hospital response through the delivery of patients to definitive care (p. 19).

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.

Required Competence

The NREMT certification is designed to verify minimum entry level competency for EMTs.

Required Abilities

The National Registry does not assess the abilities required for EMTs 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:

1. Successful completion of a state-approved Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) 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 Technician (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 EMT computer-based certification examination within 24 months.

Current State-Licensed EMT Candidates:

1. Must have successfully completed a state-approved Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) 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 Technician (NHTSA, 2021) and was completed more than two years ago.
2. Submission of a current, active EMT 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 EMT is 20 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 EMT certification examination.
    a. Results are valid 24 months.

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

1. Must have successfully completed a state-approved Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) 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 Technician (NHTSA, 2021) and was completed more than two years ago.
2. Submission of a lapsed state EMT license/certification if never nationally certified as an EMT.
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 EMT is 40 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 EMT certification examination.
    a. Results are valid 24 months.

6. Verification of skills competency prior to the first expiration date.
    a. Skills verification must be completed by one of the following mechanisms between the date of issuance of national EMS certification and the first expiration date.
    b. If the candidate does not successfully demonstrate skills verification within the allocated timeframe, the candidate will not be allowed to recertify, and the certification will lapse.
    c. Approved skills competency verification must be completed by one of the following methods:
        i. If the candidate affiliates with a National Registry Agency and has their skills competency verified (third-party) by their Agency's training officer, this satisfies the requirement for re-entry.
        ii. A State EMS Office
        iii. Provide verification of their current, full, and unrestricted state license.
            1. With a current, full, and unrestricted state license to provide care, the candidate demonstrates minimum skills competency, as required by a state licensing body.

Criteria for Initial Certification

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. Meet eligibility requirements of the *Terms of Certification*.

Certification Period

1. The time period of certification for the National Registry certification is two years.
2. Initial expiration dates are determined by the date the candidate successfully completes the entire national certification process (BLS skills competency requirement and National Registry certification examination). EMT candidates completing the national certification process between 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.

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 forty 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 must be met, consisting of at least twenty credits of approved continuing education.

   ii. At least ten 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 ten credits of continuing education for the Individual Component of the National Continued Competency Program.
   b. Successful completion of the National Registry EMT computer-based certification examination one year before the current certification expiration. 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). 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 (see reference Request a Lower Certification Level 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
Terms of Certification Policy

Disciplinary Action Policy
Request a Lower Certification Level 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

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*.

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.

Document History

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