

## Intent

To outline the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) and Paramedic candidate experience as the National Registry discontinues the ALS psychomotor and cognitive examinations and implements the new AEMT and Paramedic Certification Examination.

## Scope

This policy applies to AEMT and Paramedic Candidates, current AEMT and Paramedic Certificants (recertification), and stakeholders, including, but not limited to, EMS program directors, state officials, training officers, and medical directors involved in National EMS Certification. This policy covers updates related to the transition from the ALS (AEMT and Paramedic) psychomotor and cognitive examination to the new AEMT and paramedic certification examination from the eligibility to issuance of national EMS certification and Certificants recertifying by examination after July 1, 2024.

## Definitions

*AEMT* – Advanced Emergency Medical Technician

*ALS* – Advanced Life Support, which describes the AEMT and Paramedic Certifications

*Candidate* – an individual who meets eligibility requirements for National EMS Certification

*Certificant* – an individual who holds certification with the National Registry of EMTs

*Current Cognitive Examination* – the computer-based certification examination administered at approved testing centers through June 30, 2024

*New Certification Examination* – the certification examination administered at approved testing centers, beginning July 1, 2024

## Policy

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (National Registry) is a recognized authority in the field of emergency medical services (EMS) certification, dedicated to ensuring the competence of EMS professionals. The National Registry routinely evaluates and updates its examination processes to align with best practices in testing and certification. As part of this commitment to excellence, the National Registry has made the decision to discontinue the AEMT and Paramedic psychomotor examination, effective July 1, 2024.

This decision involves the following changes to the eligibility criteria for National EMS Certification at the AEMT and Paramedic levels:

- Discontinuation of the ALS psychomotor examination with the last available date for testing on June 30, 2024, in the Candidate's respective time zone.
- Addition of a prerequisite completion of a state-approved Student Minimum Competency Matrix for AEMT Candidates who complete an AEMT EMS Program on or after July 1, 2024.
- Discontinuation of the Current Cognitive Examination with the last available date for testing on June 30, 2024.
- Delivery of the New AEMT and Paramedic Certification examinations, beginning July 1, 2024.

- New State Licensed Entry (current, valid state license at or above level of requested national certification) and Re-Entry (no state license and/or National Registry certification) eligibility criteria which will be further explained in the AEMT and Paramedic Certification Scheme Policies per Resolution 24-01.
- Reduced time period valid for the Current Cognitive Examination, AEMT and Paramedic psychomotor results. Time period valid is reduced from the 2-year eligibility in which results used for National EMS Certification cannot be honored or used for certification on or after July 1, 2024.

Several National Registry policies, including the 2-year time period valid for psychomotor and cognitive examinations are adjusted to reflect the update and implementation of the New AEMT and Paramedic Certification Examinations and the discontinuation of the psychomotor examination administered by the National Registry.

The time period valid for the New Certification Examination successfully completed after July 1, 2024, will return to the full 2-year valid time period. The 2-year course completion eligibility time frame will remain unchanged. As mentioned above, the 2-year time period valid for the Current Cognitive Examination and psychomotor examination will be reduced and expire on June 30, 2024.

Successful National AEMT and Paramedic Certification include the following parameters:

#### *Eligibility – Student Minimum Competency Matrix*

With the discontinuation of the psychomotor examination, the National Registry recognized that the current AEMT psychomotor examination was designed to measure both procedural/mental knowledge and simple/complex psychomotor skills. The mental and procedural skills formally intended to be evaluated on the AEMT psychomotor examination will be transitioned to the New Certification Examination, while the evaluation of physical skills will be transitioned from the psychomotor examination to an eligibility requirement known as the Student Minimum Competency Matrix (SMC).

Effective January 1, 2023, Paramedic candidates are required to meet the CoAEMSP-recommended Student Minimum Competency (SMC) Matrix. This prerequisite is unchanged and found in the Certification Scheme – Paramedic (policy).

Similarly, the National Registry AEMT certification will now require the prerequisite of a state-approved Student Minimum Competency Matrix (SMC) for all courses completed on or after July 1, 2024. This policy update is found in the Certification Scheme – AEMT (policy).

The following are specific eligibility pathways for re-entry and state licensed entry pathways.

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*Eligibility – Re-Entry and State License Entry Candidates. See level-appropriate certification scheme for specific eligibility criteria.*

Current State-Licensed AEMT/Paramedic Candidates applying or testing on or after 7/1/2024:

Application

- As part of the application process, Candidates must submit the required number of continuing education credits aligned with the current National Component of the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP). The content must adhere to the National Registry Accepted Education and Documentation Policy or 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.
- Provide verification of their current, full and unrestricted State License
  - With a current, full and unrestricted state license to provide care, the candidate demonstrates minimum skills competency, as required by a state licensing body.
  - The candidate will not be required to provide documentation of verified skills competency to National Registry as part of the application process, as the current state license serves as that documentation.

Upon meeting all application and eligibility criteria, the Candidate must then complete the National Registry’s Certification Examination at the appropriate level for National EMS Certification.

Re-entry Pathway for Non-State Licensed AEMT/Paramedic Candidates applying or testing on or after 7/1/2024:

Application

- As part of the application process, Candidates must submit the required number of continuing education credits aligned with the full, current National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) Model. The content must adhere to the National Registry Accepted Education and Documentation Policy and/or 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.

Upon meeting all application and eligibility criteria, the Candidate must then complete the National Registry’s Certification Examination at the appropriate level for National EMS Certification.

Prior to the first recertification, the candidate must provide verification of skills competency. 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. 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.

- If the candidate affiliates with a National Registry Agency and has their skills competency verified (third-party) by their Agency’s medical director or training officer, this satisfies the requirement for re-entry.

- A State EMS Office or State-Approved or CoAEMSP Accredited Education Program.
- Provide verification of their current, full and unrestricted State License
  - With a current, full and unrestricted state license to provide care, the candidate demonstrates minimum skills competency, as required by a state licensing body.
  - The candidate will not be required to provide documentation of verified skills competency to National Registry as part of the application process, as the current state license serves as that documentation.

### *Eligibility – Completed Electronic Application with Payment*

A completed application that meets all eligibility requirements and payment must be made. The following application pathways are still available:

- Initial Certification
- Recertification by Examination
- Assessment Examination (state authorization)
- Re-entry (lapsed state license and/or lapsed National Registry Certification)
- State-Licensed Entry (current state license at application level)

Candidates will select their estimated examination date, which is either before, on, or after 7/1/2024. By selecting this date, it will determine which examination the Candidate or Certificant will take. An Authorization to Test (ATT) email is issued based on the date selected for the Current Cognitive Examination or the New AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination as long as all other eligibility requirements are met – see Certification Scheme Policy.

Candidates will be able to schedule and test through June 30, 2024, depending on the testing site availability.

### *Authorization to Test (ATT)*

After the approval of the application to test, an ATT for the Current Cognitive Examination or New Certification Examination will be issued based on the date selected on the application.

The ATT will be specific to the examination selected, either before 7/1/2024 or on or after 7/1/2024. The specific situations below will determine which ATT the candidate will receive:

- A new ATT may be required along with a difference in the examination fee for rescheduled examinations, deadline to test (DTT) modifications which are beyond the initial 90-day valid ATT timeframe, extensions, granted appeals, or no-show examinations.
- If a Candidate has not successfully passed their Current Cognitive Examination prior to 7/1/2024 and still meets eligibility requirements after 7/1/2024, the Candidate will be required to test

using the New Certification Examination. If the original ATT was issued after April 1, 2024, a new ATT will automatically be issued for the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination.

- If a Candidate passed the Current Cognitive Examination prior to 7/1/2024 but has not completed the psychomotor requirement for certification before 7/1/2024, the Candidate will be required to complete a new application to test for the New Certification Examination if all other eligibility remains.
- No extensions for the Current Cognitive Examination will be provided for examination dates on or after 7/1/2024. Candidates or Certificants testing on or after 7/1/2024 must take the New Certification Examination.

### *Psychomotor Authorization to Test (PATT)*

A Candidate is required to have a valid PATT for initial testing or retesting the AEMT or Paramedic psychomotor examinations.

PATTs are no longer issued or valid after 7/1/2024 due to the discontinuation of the ALS psychomotor examination.

All psychomotor AEMT and Paramedic skills must be successfully completed before 7/1/2024.

If a Candidate has not successfully completed their two full attempts of the psychomotor examination before 7/1/2024, all remaining attempts are forfeited. The Candidate must take the New Certification Examination if all other eligibility requirements are met.

- PATTs will continue to be issued through 6/30/2024 with a completed application for the Current Cognitive Examination.
- All PATTs will expire 6/30/2024 at midnight of the respective time zone.
  - No extensions will be issued.
- The psychomotor examination may be completed before midnight 6/30/2024 of the Candidate's respective time zone.

If a Candidate failed both full attempts of the psychomotor examination, per the Certification Scheme, the Candidate must obtain a new course completion before being eligible to test the New Certification Examination after 7/1/2024.

### *Rescheduling of Cognitive Examination*

A Candidate or Certificant may reschedule their examination if all other eligibility requirements are met. A date selected for the examination either before or after 7/1/2024 may require an updated ATT, if applicable.

A new ATT is required if the date change moves from before or after the 7/1/2024 – ATT is specific to the cognitive or new certification examination. The new ATT issued may impact the payment made on your initial application.

- An ATT issued for the New Certification Examination scheduled after 7/1/2024 cannot be used to schedule an examination before 7/1/2024.
  - A new ATT must be issued.
- An ATT issued for the Current Cognitive Examination before 7/1/2024 cannot be used to schedule an examination after 7/1/2024.
  - A new ATT must be issued.
- A new ATT and fee change is not necessary if the ATT is valid within the 90-day time period from issuance and it is for the same examination type within the same date range.
  - Note: Time period valid for an ATT granted for the Current Cognitive Examination may be less than 90 days if the time of issuance of the ATT and discontinuation of the Current Cognitive Examination is less than 90 days.

### *Payment*

The Current Cognitive Examination fees for the AEMT and Paramedic Examinations are unchanged through 6/30/2024.

The fee increase is effective for Candidates and Certificants who apply for the new AEMT and Paramedic Certification Examinations on or after 7/1/2024. This fee increase is \$15.

- Current Cognitive Examination Fees:
  - AEMT: \$144
  - Paramedic: \$160
- New Certification Examination Fees:
  - AEMT: \$159
  - Paramedic: \$175

### *Eligibility – Course Completion Time Period and Course Completion Date:*

Course completion time frames remain valid for two years. A Candidate will still have two years from the date of course completion to complete the eligibility requirements for AEMT or Paramedic Certification.

- Requirements for certification will be updated and effective 7/1/2024 in the Certification Schemes for AEMT and Paramedic.
- There is no grandfathering of certification requirements from before 7/1/2024.
- Any Candidate with two-year course completion eligibility and still in the testing process as of 7/1/2024, will be required to take the New Certification Examination to achieve National EMS Certification.

### *Eligibility - Time Period for Valid Examination Results*

The current policy “Time Period for Valid Examinations Results” states that the time period valid for examination is two years from the date of a passing result.

- Passed examinations will remain valid for two years for the New Certification Examination passed on or after 7/1/2024.
- Passed psychomotor examination results are valid for two years. If a Current Cognitive Examination was not completed prior to 7/1/2024, the Candidate must take the New Certification Examination for National EMS Certification.
- Recertification by Examination results are valid for two years for current Certificants.

### *Retest and Remedial Training*

The Retest Policy and Remedial Training Policy for those with examination eligibility who have not passed the Current Cognitive Examination remains unchanged. The total number of examination attempts does not reset in the event a Candidate started with the Current Cognitive Examination and transitioned on or after July 1, 2024, to complete the rest of the attempts with the New Certification Examination. All eligible attempts must be made within the two-year course completion time period.

In the case where a Candidate has passed a Current Cognitive Examination, still has 2-year course completion eligibility, and has not passed their psychomotor examination before July 1, 2024, the Candidate will be required to successfully pass the New Certification Examination for national certification at the AEMT or Paramedic level.

The passed Current Cognitive Examination will remain on record in the account but cannot be used for national certification.

- The Candidate will need to apply and pay for the New Certification Examination.
- The Candidate will not be required to complete remedial training if they passed the Current Cognitive Examination on their 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt and the next examination attempt is their 4<sup>th</sup> attempt in which they are taking the New Certification Examination.
- In continued attempts from the cognitive examination to the new certification examination where eligibility remains, the candidate will complete remedial training after a combined (3) failed examination attempts and before the 4<sup>th</sup> examination attempt.
- A candidate will resume their examination attempts up to the maximum total attempts of 7.
  - The National Registry will grant one additional attempt (7 attempts total) to Candidates who already passed the Current Cognitive Examination towards the New Certification Examination.

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### *Transfer of Cognitive Examination Results*

The Current Cognitive Examination Transfer Policy allows for a cognitive examination result to be transferred to a new application for certification if all other eligibility requirements are met, including the two-year course completion and two-year valid cognitive examination results.

The Current AEMT or Paramedic Cognitive Examination results cannot be transferred to a new application for national EMS certification on or after 7/1/2024 unless the Candidate successfully completed the psychomotor examination, and the results are still valid within their eligibility time period.

Examples of cognitive results transferred before or after 7/1/2024 include the following:

- A Candidate successfully passed the psychomotor examination before 7/1/2024 and has valid results from a passed Current Cognitive Examination before 7/1/2024.
- A Certificant passed the examination before or after 7/1/2024 and is transferring results for recertification by examination within their eligible recertification cycle date.

### **Rationale**

The National Registry is evolving with the assessment of entry-level competency and developments in the testing and credentialing industry. The National Registry AEMT and Paramedic psychomotor examinations will no longer be available on or after July 1, 2024. This policy outlines the changes necessary to be compliant with NCCA Accreditation and changes for Candidate and Certificant success. It serves as a transparent form of communication during the transition period from before 7/1/2024 and after 7/1/2024.

### **Related Policies and Procedures**

- Certification Scheme – Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
- Certification Scheme – Paramedic
- Time Period for Valid Examinations Results
- Terms of Certification Policy
- Disciplinary Actions Policy
- Reconsideration of Eligibility Policy
- Appeals Policy
- Request for Time Extensions
- Cognitive Results Transfers
- Candidate No Show Examinations
- Scheduling Examinations
- Inactive and Active Status Certification (Recertification) Policy



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Retesting Psychomotor Examination  
Retesting Cognitive Examinations  
23-Resolution-03 – Endorsement of the AEMT level Student Minimum Competency (SMC)  
23-Resolution-05 – Update ALS Redesign Policies  
24-Resolution-01 – Reentry Policy Requirements for AEMT and Paramedic  
24-Motion-04 - Removal of CPR eligibility requirements

**References**

I.C.E. NCCA 2021 Accreditation Standards  
ISO 17024-2012  
Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing

**Document History**

2023-10-16      Created  
2023-11-2      Review by Leadership Team (v1)  
2024-02-21      Assessment Committee passed Resolution 24-01 updating Reentry criteria (v1)  
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2024-06-11      Approved by Board of Directors (v1)