

NREMT 2015 Summer Newsletter



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Upcoming NREMT Webinars – Register Today!

PPCP – Tuesday, August 18th 12 PM ET

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8907930213237542658>

NCCP – Tuesday, September 15th 12 PM ET

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3434019270936131842>

Paramedic Scenario Psychomotor Exam & Psychomotor Competency Portfolio (PPCP)

The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) is changing the way it verifies psychomotor competency for National Registry Paramedic (NRP) certification. Several factors have come together prompting the NREMT to change its psychomotor examination. The first is a desire to ensure protection of the public by assessing psychomotor competency in a way that better simulates actual practice in a testing environment. The second factor is that EMS employers would like to be able to more quickly integrate newly certified providers into the workforce. Finally, the NREMT now requires that all paramedic candidates graduate from a Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredited paramedic program or one that holds a current Letter of Review (LoR) from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). Scenario examinations allow the NREMT to incorporate essential attributes of team leadership along with scene and patient management, thus better reflecting actual out-of-hospital care as opposed to continuing to test 12 isolated skills.

The NREMT developed a portfolio of vital skills that each paramedic student will utilize to gain entry-level competence to qualify for the NRP certification examination. The program tracks each student's portfolio throughout the formative and summative phases of education in the laboratory, clinical and field internship settings. The completed portfolio provides a mass of evidence that documents a candidate's acquisition of psychomotor competency in the skills we currently evaluate on the 12-skill NRP psychomotor examination. All students who begin their paramedic program on or after August 1, 2016 are required to complete a portfolio that becomes a part of their permanent educational file and is a prerequisite to seeking NRP certification.

Beginning January 1, 2017, the NREMT will start testing Phase 1 of the new scenario psychomotor exam. In this phase a total of six (6) skills will be tested, five (5) currently evaluated in the NRP psychomotor examination and one (1) scenario. This out-of-hospital scenario will reflect either a pediatric, geriatric or adult patient. Each candidate will be provided with a trained paramedic partner and evaluated on his/her ability to manage a call, lead the team, effectively communicate, and maintain professionalism throughout the simulated patient encounter.

Click on the following [link](#) to view best-practice documents and webinars that provide information on the development of student portfolios and scenarios. Please review and contact Todd Vreeland at tvreeland@nremt.org with any further questions.



The National Continued Competency Program: *The 'New' Recertification* (NCCP)

In 2012, the NREMT introduced a new recertification model, the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP). Constructed using methodology similar to that of the American Board of Medical Specialty requirements, the new NCCP model streamlines the recertification process into three strategic categories of continuing education: National, Local, and Individual.

The NCCP offers numerous improvements that will impact EMS for the better for years to come. These changes allow a platform for evidence-based medicine to reach EMS professionals all over the country, give state and local agencies the freedom to dictate a portion of the national recertification requirements and provide a foundation for the EMS professional to embrace life-long learning.

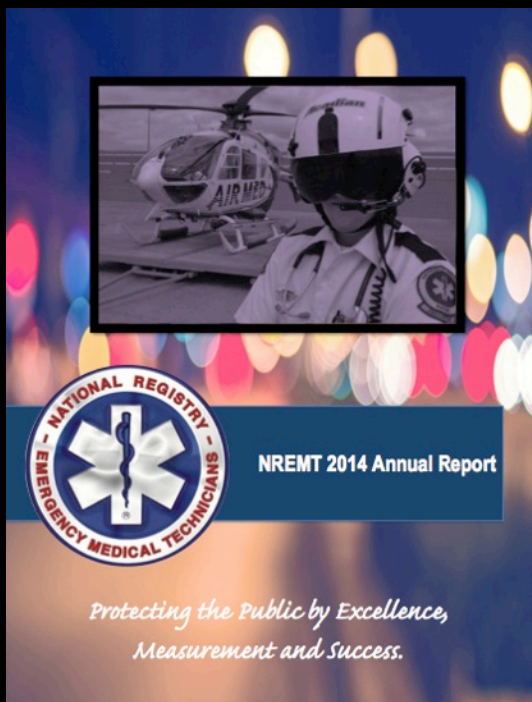
The **national component** of the NCCP (the 'new' refresher) will constitute 50% of the new recertification requirements at each level and will replace the traditional DOT refresher. Topics will be updated every four years and will reflect current trends in evidence-based medicine, scope of practice changes and position papers from numerous associations involved with EMS research. It will also serve to focus on those patient presentations that have a low frequency but high criticality.

The **local component** of the NCCP will constitute 25% of the new recertification requirements at each level. The requirement for these hours will be decided by local entities, including the state, region or agency. These topics can include, but are not limited to, state or local protocol changes, tasks that require remediation based on QA/QI and topics chosen from run reviews. The local component allows national recertification requirements to be adapted to the needs of the state and local agencies. Methods to provide current continuing education such as monthly training, conferences, and in-service training will stay the same.

Finally, the **individual component** of the NCCP will constitute the last 25% of the new recertification requirements at each level. Within this component, an individual is free to take any EMS-related education. As a result of the new NCCP recertification model, the total continuing education hours needed to recertify a national EMS certification have been reduced for EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics.

States across the nation are beginning to implement this new recertification model. Please periodically check the NREMT's webpage and with your state EMS office for information on upcoming implementation in your state.

For more information on NCCP please [click here](#).



NREMT's 2014 Annual Report

Please [click this link](#) to view.

The 2014 National EMS Practice Analysis

What is a practice analysis?

A practice analysis is a necessary process that guides the test development of our certification exams. Every 5 years the NREMT gathers data from randomly selected nationally certified EMS providers from every state through an electronic questionnaire. This questionnaire's main focus is to assess the frequency and severity of calls EMS providers encounter. Specifically, we look at low frequency high criticality as a point of measure when reviewing these data. For example, a pediatric cardiac arrest is an infrequent call, which would equate to low frequency, but the call has high criticality because of the potential outcome to the patient if the task is not completed properly.

What do we do with the data?

After data collection, an analysis is conducted that takes into account weights for frequency and criticality. This weighted importance score is then combined for each of the five domains on the NREMT examinations (Airway, Respiration & Ventilation; Cardiology & Resuscitation; Trauma; Medical & OB/Gyn; and EMS Operations). After the weighted importance scores have been added up, the proportion represented by each area tells the NREMT what percentage each domain should constitute. These data then set the blueprint for the next five years of NREMT examinations.

Where can I obtain a copy of the 2014 NREMT practice analysis?

Login into your NREMT account and click on the following:

- My Certification
 - Purchase NREMT Items
 - 2014 Practice Analysis (Price = \$10.00)

NREMT Research Update

We wanted to share some of the highlights of our ongoing and upcoming EMS research projects. Data collection for the third year of the second Longitudinal EMT Attributes and Demographics Study (LEADS II) is winding down. The LEADS II study is the second 10 year longitudinal effort to assess changes and observe the growth of the profession we all love. In addition to LEADS, we are working on several exciting projects including collaborations involving pivotal topics. Some of these topics include the use of ketamine in the out-of-hospital setting and pediatric spinal immobilization. Later this year we will send out our annual census questionnaire to all nationally certified EMS professionals. Keep your eyes on your inbox, you may be selected to participate in one of these important EMS research projects!

NREMT EMS Research Fellowship Position Available

The NREMT is accepting applications for an EMS Research Fellow position. The ideal candidate is a nationally certified, field-experienced EMS professional possessing a Bachelor's degree. Successful candidates must be able to gain admission to The Ohio State University's (OSU) graduate school for an approved Master's and Doctoral studies program.

The NREMT EMS Fellowship is a rare opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree while benefiting from mentoring, hands-on research skill development, and a unique education at both the NREMT and OSU. You must be highly motivated and committed to positively impact EMS on a national level. The successful EMS Research Fellow will enjoy a reduced workload and fully-funded tuition while pursuing graduate studies at OSU. Work responsibilities at the NREMT will include research activities, conference presentations, committee memberships and publications.

Upon completion of their doctoral studies, EMS Research Fellows sponsored by the NREMT have secured important EMS research positions helping the NREMT heed the call to provide appropriately trained EMS researchers identified in the *EMS Research Agenda for the Future*.

To be considered for the position, please send a cover letter and your resume or vitae to Melissa Bentley, NREMT, P.O. Box 29233, Columbus, OH 43229 or mbentley@nremt.org by August 15, 2015.

The NREMT is an equal opportunity employer.

NREMT Recertification Update

This year the NREMT recertified over 91,000 EMS professionals, making this season the best season in our organization's history. Many of you, 82% to be exact, are using the electronic application to log your continuing education, affiliate with your agency and submit your application online. With technology innovations, every year the electronic submission process becomes more efficient, easier to follow and allows for a quicker processing time. This year the NREMT also introduced eCards which enables you to view and print your renewed EMS certification the same day it is approved by our office. Because of our dedication to the EMS profession and our nationally certified EMS professionals, we will continually strive to improve the electronic process.

Top 10 Certification/Recertification FAQs



What happens if I do not successfully complete a transition course within my time period?

If you submit an acceptable recertification application but fail to submit proof of a transition course within your transition period, you will automatically be recertified at the next-lowest level. For example, if you are an EMT-Basic and submit your completed recertification materials but fail to provide proof of a transition course, you will be issued a certification at the EMR level.

My National EMS Certification has lapsed. How can I gain my certification back?

If your certification has expired within two years of the expiration date or you are state licensed at the level you want to test, you will need to complete a state approved refresher or equivalent continuing education topic hours, NREMT cognitive and psychomotor exams. If your NREMT certification has lapsed beyond two years and you are not licensed at the level you want to test, please contact the NREMT for entry requirements.



Can I use an online refresher course?

Yes, you may be able to use an online refresher course. Please be aware there is a 10-hour limit for the amount of distributive education (DE) that may be used towards the refresher section. Distributive education means that the student and instructor are not able to interact in real time. Examples include, but are not limited to, video reviews, magazine reviews, and online courses. CECBEMS uses the F3 designation for distributive education. Please note that F5 (Virtual Instructor Led Training- VILT) is not classified as distributive education. Online refresher courses that are state-approved may be used to satisfy the refresher requirement.



Who can sign the skills portion of the recertification form?

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR): Your Training Officer/Supervisor can sign the skills portion of the form.
 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT): Your Training Officer/Supervisor can sign the skills portion of the form.
 Intermediate/85, Advanced EMT, Intermediate/99 and Paramedic:
 Your Physician Medical Director must sign the skills portion of the form.



What does the NREMT accept as valid continuing education?

The NREMT accepts continuing education that has received official approval through your State EMS office and/or the Continuing Education Coordinating Board of Emergency Medical Services (www.cecbems.org). Continuing education topics may include subject matter contained within the National Scope of Practice as well as other subject matter specifically related to the emergency medical care of patients. Continuing education may be obtained through a variety of delivery methods including didactic sessions, practical drills, workshops, EMS conferences, and distributive education.



(FAQs continue on page 7)

Who is responsible for administration of the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) psychomotor examinations?

The State EMS office has oversight for administration of EMR and EMT psychomotor examinations. In some states, the State EMS office can delegate the EMR and EMT psychomotor examinations to the education institutions as part of an end of course examination.

An NREMT comprehensive manual (available online) details the suggested aspects of coordinating an EMR and EMT psychomotor examinations and is designed to assist in planning for all related aspects of the examination. Please keep in mind that this material serves only as a guide to facilitate coordination and administration of the EMR and EMT psychomotor examinations. State EMS officials may choose to alter the format and design of these materials in order to meet local requirements for state licensure (required skills, cut score and retest policy). Please adhere to any mandated state requirements for administration and coordination of EMR and EMT psychomotor examinations.



What is the role of the NREMT Skill Examiner and National Registry Representative at an advanced level (AEMT/I-99/Paramedic) psychomotor examination?

The psychomotor exam is a formal verification procedure not designed for teaching, coaching or remedial training.

The Skill Examiners are selected because of their expertise in the assigned skill. The Skill Examiner is an observer and recorder of the candidate's actions. Each Skill examiner documents candidate performance in relationship to criteria established by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. The Skill Examiners have not played any role in the establishment of pass/fail criteria, but merely observe and document candidate performance in each skill.

The National Registry Representative is responsible for overseeing and controlling all related aspects of the advanced level psychomotor examination administration. They ensure that fair, objective, and impartial evaluations occur in accordance with NREMT policy. The National Registry Representative is responsible for determining, based upon the "Critical Criteria" and minimum point totals if a candidate has passed or failed each skill. Unofficial results are provided to the candidate the day of the examination but official results will be reported by mail from the NREMT office in approximately 3 - 4 weeks as pass/fail.



How do I get a copy of my current EMT card?

You have 2 options to obtain an additional NREMT card. Go to www.NREMT.org and login to your account. Click the tab on the left-hand side labeled "My Certification."

1. In the middle of the screen you will see emblems that correspond to your certification level.

-Click on the blue link labeled "See More Items."

-Scroll down and you will be able to purchase a duplicate card.

2. On the lower left-hand side you will see "Print Card." Click on this link and print to your own printer.



How do I sign up for a retest?

After waiting 15 days from the previous exam attempt, log into your NREMT account and click on "Create Initial Entry Application." Once you select your application level and have read the entry requirements, on the next page you'll be given an option for an express application. If nothing has changed from the previous application, you can choose this option, make payment and in most cases receive your authorization to test within 24-48 hours.



Why haven't I received my email that I'm authorized to test?

Your Authorization to Test Letter will post to your NREMT account, not through your email. Once you log into your NREMT account, click on "Check Initial Entry App Status." Under the application summary you'll see a link that says "Print/View Authorization to Test (ATT) Letter."



Linear Testing and Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)

The NREMT administers two types of cognitive examinations; Linear and Computer Adaptive Tests (CAT). Both types of examinations are administered by our partner, Pearson VUE. Linear Testing is a traditional paper-pencil examination that is simply placed in a computer format. The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician exam is a linear test. Each candidate will receive 135 questions. AEMT candidates can mark items to review and change answers before submitting all responses, provided time does not expire. The passing standard is defined as demonstration of an appropriate level of AEMT knowledge to provide safe and effective, entry-level care.

Level	Operational Items	Pilot Items	Total Items	Max Time to Test
AEMT	100	35	135	2 hours 15 minutes

Computer Adaptive Tests are tailored to the ability of the candidate. An adaptive test presents the candidate with items that will be most informative for measuring ability. There is no minimum percentage of items correct to pass. Every candidate will be challenged to the limit of his/her ability. Every candidate will take the minimum number items for their specific level but the computer will shut off the exam when it has enough data to determine competency, which can occur between the minimum number of items or anywhere up to the maximum. The Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic cognitive examinations are administered in a computer adaptive test format.

Level	Operational Items	Pilot Items	Minimum	Maximum	Max Time to Test
EMR	60	35	95	110	1 hour 45 minutes
EMT	60	10	70	120	2 hours
Paramedic	60	20	80	150	2 hours 30 minutes

If you would like to learn more about our exams, please click on the following [link](#).

Disclosure

In an on-going commitment to quality improvement, the National Registry has updated the examination results feedback report with several user-friendly enhancements added to our application. In doing so, a prior inconsistency in how results were presented also has been resolved.



Florida Roll-Out

The National Registry of EMTs will begin testing Paramedics in the state of Florida beginning January 1, 2016. The NREMT has historically provided the NREMT certification for Florida for many years.

NREMT Executive Director, Severo Rodriguez spent six days traveling throughout the state of Florida meeting with state officials, educators and stakeholders. He discussed current paramedic entry requirements, revisions to the paramedic psychomotor examination and the new recertification model. The NREMT is excited to partner with Florida at the paramedic level.

Paper Recertification Processing Fee

Effective October 1, 2015 all *paper* recertification applications* submitted to the NREMT will be assessed a \$5.00 processing fee. The \$5.00 processing fee is in addition to the standard recertification cost appropriate to the level.

Online recertification is the most efficient method of recertifying with the NREMT. If you would like more information, please visit our website www.nremt.org.

*Excludes recertification by examination applications.

Announced: December 10, 2014

90-Day Authorization To Test Update

Beginning January 1, 2015, Authorizations to Test (ATT) for National EMS Certification were valid for up to 90 days from the date of issuance, provided all other requirements for National EMS Certification were met. Most candidates on average utilized their ATT within 19 days.

Upcoming Conferences NREMT will be in Attendance:

- CLINCON – Orlando, FL – July 7th – July 11th
- TEMSEA – Murfreesboro, TN – July 8th – July 9th
- Kentucky EMS Conference – Richmond, KY – July 23rd
- NAEMSE – Nashville, TN – August 4th – August 9th
- Georgia EMS & Educators Conference – Savannah, GA – September 12th – 15th
- EMS World Expo – Las Vegas, NV - September 14th – 18th

Happy 45th Anniversary!

June 4, 2015 marks the 45th anniversary of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. We continue to protect the public and the nation by adherence to the NREMT mission. Thank you to all of the past and current NREMT Board of Directors members for their extraordinary vision and leadership. Thank you to all State EMS Officials, EMS physicians, all other EMS stakeholders and our testing partners at Pearson VUE for your incredible support. And to all the past and current nationally certified EMS professionals, we are truly humbled by your support and dedication to the EMS profession.

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