

Certification Scheme: Nationally Registered Advanced Emergency Medical Technician

Intent

This policy specifies the certification scheme for the Nationally Registered Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT) 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 Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT) certification.

Definitions

AEMT – Advanced 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 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 AEMT role as defined by the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model (NASEMSO, 2019) which states:

The AEMT is a health professional whose primary focus is to respond to, assess and triage non-urgent, urgent, and emergent requests for medical care, apply basic and focused advanced knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and/or medical transportation, and facilitate access to a higher level of care when the needs of the patient exceed the capability level of the AEMT. The additional preparation beyond EMT prepares an AEMT to improve patient care in common emergency conditions for which reasonably safe, targeted, and evidence-based interventions exist. Interventions within the AEMT scope of practice may carry more risk if not performed properly than interventions authorized for the EMR/EMT levels. With proper supervision, AEMTs 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

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community setting an AEMT might visit patients at home and make observations that are reported to a higher-level authority to help manage a patient's care (p. 27).

Job and Task Description

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

- “Function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, community, health, or public safety system with medical oversight.
- Perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance.
- Perform focused advanced skills and pharmacological interventions that are engineered to mitigate specific life-threatening conditions, medical, and psychological conditions with a targeted set of skills beyond the level of an EMT.
- Function as an important link from the scene into the health care system.” (p. 28).

The National Registry performs 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 AEMT certification scheme is based on the 2014 National Registry Practice Analysis (National Registry of EMTs, 2015).

Required Competence

The NRAEMT certification is designed to verify minimum entry level competency for AEMTs.

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 Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Psychomotor Examination Policy.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites to certification include:

1. Current National Registry certification (NREMT) or state license at the EMT level, or a higher
2. Successful completion of a state-approved Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) course that meets or exceeds the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NHTSA, 2009).

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- a. 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. If the initial Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) educational program was completed more than two years ago and the candidate is currently state licensed at the AEMT level, the candidate must document proof of education requirements. The following methods are acceptable:
 - i. Successful completion of a state approved AEMT refresher course or
 - ii. 25 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) within the past two years.
 - c. If a candidate's AEMT state license has lapsed, or an individual's National AEMT Certification has lapsed, the candidate must document proof of 50 hours of continuing education that meets all requirements of the 2016 National Continued Competency Program (National Registry of EMTs, 2016) within the past two years.
3. A current AHA BLS for "Healthcare Provider" or equivalent credential.

Code of Conduct

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

Criteria for Initial Certification

1. Documented completion of all prerequisites.
2. Successful completion of the National Registry AEMT cognitive and psychomotor examinations per the requirements of relevant policies.
3. Met the eligibility requirements of the *Terms of Certification and Criminal Conviction Policy*

Certification Period

1. The time period of certification for the NRAEMT 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). AEMT 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.

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Criteria for Recertification

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 fifty 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 twenty-five hours of approved continuing education. No more than eight hours of the National Component can be distributive education (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
 - ii. At least twelve and a half 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 eight hours of the Local Component can be distributive education (National Registry of EMTs, 2019).
 - iii. At least twelve and a half 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 AEMT cognitive 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 (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

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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) standard. 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

Exam Validity Policy

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*.

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Document History

2019-08-14 Created

2020-04-15 Approved by the National Registry Board of Directors