



# ALS Psychomotor Examination Discontinued


**New AEMT and Paramedic Certification Examinations Launches July 1, 2024**

With the launch of the new AEMT and Paramedic Certification Examinations and the introduction of Student Minimum Competency (SMC) requirements, the ALS psychomotor examinations used for NRAEMT and NRP certifications will be discontinued. Through this process, the National Registry is committed to a transition plan that provides accessibility and a clear path to National Certification.

Effective July 1, 2024, all candidates seeking certification as an NRAEMT and NRP will be required to take the National Registry's new AEMT and Paramedic Certification Examinations. The last day the ALS psychomotor examination will be administered is June 30, 2024.

Why is the National Registry discontinuing the ALS Psychomotor Examination?

- \* The National Registry is discontinuing the ALS Psychomotor Examinations (NRAEMT & NRP) because there have been advancements in testing practices and testing science, and there has been a consistent, resonant call for modernization and efficiency of our examinations by stakeholders across the industry.
- \* Modern practices in testing and certification, especially within most health-based professions that administer high-stakes examinations, focus on delivering examinations that are transitioning away from administering psychomotor examinations.
- \* The move to the new AEMT and Paramedic Certification Examinations aligns with the requirements of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accreditation body for the National Registry as a certification organization.

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- \* Issues raised by candidates, educators, and state regulators for the past several years include:
    - \* Logistical and budgetary challenges with equipment and personnel
    - \* Inconsistency in testing experience
    - \* Subjective application of testing standards
    - \* Emergency Medical Services being one of the last health industries that requires a psychomotor examination.
  - \* The National Registry's updated examination, used in conjunction with the SMC prerequisite, will offer a more precise measurement of entry-level competency (especially clinical judgment) when compared to the current ALS cognitive and psychomotor examinations.
  - \* Documented skills progression over time via the SMC is stronger evidence of competency than the current ALS psychomotor examination. The SMC will record psychomotor competency differently and in a more comprehensive manner. Instead of a one-and-done event, psychomotor skills (and other competencies) will be captured over a longer period, in various settings, and with multiple and differing evaluators.

## What You Need To Know

- \* The National Registry is discontinuing the ALS Psychomotor Examination because there have been advancements in testing practices and testing science, and there has been a consistent, resonant call for modernization and efficiency by stakeholders across the industry.
- \* AEMT and Paramedic candidates who have passed the cognitive examination by June 30, 2024, but have not completed the psychomotor examination will be required to take the National Registry's new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination.
- \* Candidates who have passed the ALS psychomotor examination by June 30, 2024, but have not completed the cognitive examination will be required to take the National Registry's the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination.



## Key Takeaways

- \* Effective July 1, 2024, all candidates for AEMT and Paramedic certification will be required to take the National Registry's the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination. The last day the ALS psychomotor examination will be administered is June 30, 2024.
- \* The National Registry is committed to ensuring an assessment process that is fair, accessible, and reliable. Regardless of circumstance, candidates will be given all reasonable opportunities to gain National Certification, within the bounds of organizational policy.

## Questions

**Q- My state still requires a psychomotor examination for state licensure. Will that be a requirement for National Certification?**

**A-** No. Beginning July 1, 2024, a psychomotor examination will no longer be a requirement for National Certification. Check with your State EMS Office to determine state requirements.

**Q- If I complete my course before July 1, 2024, do I have to complete the psychomotor examination?**

**A-** If you complete the cognitive examination prior to July 1, 2024, and you do not successfully complete the psychomotor examination prior to July 1, 2024, you will be required to take the the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination.

**Q- If you complete the cognitive examination prior to July 1, 2024, and cannot complete the psychomotor examination before it is discontinued, what steps should I take?**

**A-** If you have not completed both the cognitive and psychomotor examination prior to July 1, 2024, you will be required to take the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination.



**Q- If I complete the psychomotor exam prior to July 1, 2024, do I have the option of completing the cognitive examination after July 1, 2024?**

**A-** If you have not completed both the cognitive and psychomotor examinations prior to July 1, 2024, you will be required to take the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination.

**Q- If I passed the cognitive examination and fail and exhaust all attempts at the psychomotor examination, do I have the option to undergo the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination to gain National Certification?**

**A-** No. You will have exhausted the pathway to achieve National Certification and must complete a new education course.

**Q- Does the discontinuation of the psychomotor examination alter any of the National Registry's eligibility or assessment policies, such as the two-year eligibility window from the point of course completion or the number of attempts allowed on the examination?**

**A-** No. The discontinuation of the ALS psychomotor examination does not alter the two-year eligibility timeframe. Candidates will continue to have two years to complete all testing requirements. The number of retests allowed is not changing. As an example: If a candidate fails the cognitive examination four times, the candidate would still be allowed two attempts at the new AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examination, so long as they are within their two-year window of eligibility.

**Q- What is the path forward for ALS Psychomotor Examination Representatives?**

**A-** With the discontinuation of the ALS Psychomotor Examination, ALS Examination Representatives will be given the opportunity to “opt” into additional or future volunteer opportunities.

## Dates To Know



July 1, 2024

The National Registry's updated Certification Examinations will launch, and the ALS Psychomotor Examination will no longer be available.