



Your Transition Plan: From EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Fall 2011

A Letter from the Executive Director You Will Soon be a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT)...

...and no longer an NREMT-Basic. During the next four years everyone in EMS will be going through a “transition” from levels of certification designated in the 1990’s to new titles with new interventions and responsibilities. These changes have been planned since 2000 and are being accomplished in conjunction with the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. Hundreds of national EMS leaders participated in discussions with states and stakeholders to help everyone arrive at this decision over the past 11 years.

This newsletter is being sent to you to outline specifically what YOU must do to become a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT).

First a little history regarding the EMS title of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic and the new Emergency Medical Technician. In 1969, via a federal contract, Dunlap and Associates produced the first Emergency Medical Technician Ambulance course. Many aspiring providers took this course and became EMT-As.

When the NREMT started a certification at that level in 1971, in order for a provider to obtain certification he or she had to have six months of experience working in the pre-hospital setting in order to be a NREMT-A. Later, some EMT-As began to work in health care settings and soon an NREMT-Non-Ambulance was designated. In 1989, the NREMT Board of Directors desired to reduce the confusion between EMT-Ambulance and Non-Ambulance and designated the title EMT-Basic, following the title used by some states.

In 1994 the Department of Transportation (DOT), released a national standard curriculum titled, *Emergency Medical Technician-Basic*. Between 2004 and 2006, the National Association of State EMS Officials, in conjunction with other national stakeholder groups, developed and released the *National EMS Scope of Practice Model*; one of the components of the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future*. Part of those discussions concluded with changing the name of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician and expanded

their knowledge and patient care abilities. Added to the national EMS scope of practice model and education standards was a change from assessment based patient care towards diagnostic based patient care, more extensive knowledge to assess and understand patient conditions and use of pulse oximeters for assessment purposes. Although many providers believe “skills” determine the value of a provider the focus of these changes were to increase the “knowledge” of future EMS providers when compared to those educated under the 1994 National Standard Curriculum. These changes in responsibilities and knowledge nationally require each state to review their scopes of practice and assure providers meet, at least, the minimum national standards. The National Registry, in concert with the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future*, is likewise making this “transition.”

The NREMT has worked with the National Association of State EMS Officials EMS Education Agenda Implementation Team to develop policies that require you to complete or possess transition education.

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The new NREMT patch.

LOOK FOR YOUR SPECIAL EMAIL NEWSLETTER

To keep you informed of important news and updates, we have sent you an email newsletter to the email address you indicated in your NREMT online profile. Be sure your NREMT account is current!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Learn what YOU need to do... to transition from EMT-B to the new EMT level as determined by the new Scope of Practice.



NREMT Transition Policy

Adopted June 8, 2011

The NREMT Board of Directors is committed to implementation of the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*.

Included within this agenda is the National EMS Scope of Practice Model. Therefore, in order for NREMTs to maintain National EMS Certification, as outlined in the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future*, all NREMTs must meet the minimum requirements of knowledge and skills outlined in the National EMS Scope of Practice Model.



EMT-B to Emergency Medical Technician

All NREMT-Basics who have expiration dates of March 31, 2011 or March 31, 2012 have two registration cycles (four years) to complete a state approved Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) transition course in order to be eligible for National EMS Certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT).

Completion of a transition course that is state approved must be validated by attending and successfully completing a course that issues a certificate that contains:

- NREMT-Basic's name
- transition course completion date
- the following statement: "[*your name*] has completed a state approved EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) transition course."
- name of the sponsoring agency
- signature of the individual responsible for the training

To transition to the EMT level, the NREMT-Basic is not required to complete a National EMS Certification Examination.

NREMT-Basics who submit an acceptable recertification application but do not include successful completion of a state-approved transition course from EMT-Basic to EMT will be issued National EMS Certification as an Emergency Medical Responder (NREMR) upon reaching their expiration date of March 31, 2015 or 2016.

Additional Content That May Be Included

- Pulse oximetry
- ATV
- Humidified oxygen
- Partial rebreather mask, simple face mask, Venturi mask, tracheostomy mask
- Mechanical CPR device
- Hemorrhage control (direct/tourniquet)
- Oral aspirin
- Assisting patients w/self medication

IMPORTANT TO NOTE! You may already be performing some of these interventions under the authority of your State EMS office rules and regulations or by your local treatment protocols.

YOUR Steps to Transition (EMT-Basic to EMT)

1. Ask your Training Officer when the State approved EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician transition course will be offered (or contact your State EMS Office for information)
2. Complete the transition course during one of your next two recertification cycles
3. Obtain a completion certificate for the course
4. Make sure the certificate includes:
 - Your name
 - The date of the course
 - The statement: “[*your name*] has completed a state approved EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician transition/refresher course”
 - The name of the sponsoring agency
 - the signature of the instructor
5. Provide the certificate along with your other recertification materials to the NREMT by your recertification deadline (March 31)

Failure to provide the required documentation within two recertification cycles will result in your being issued National EMS Certification as an Emergency Medical Responder (NREMR) upon reaching their expiration date of March 31, 2015 or 2016.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE! *Your State EMS Office may determine there is no gap material that you need to learn. However, the NREMT will still be seeking a certificate that has the above information.*

NREMT SEEKS CANDIDATE FOR AT-LARGE BOARD POSITION

The NREMT is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the at-large position on its Board of Directors. This candidate will bring a high level of expertise in his/her respective field. This candidate will also help lead the NREMT in transitioning to the new Scope of Practice provider levels, and implementing the requirement for students applying to take the NREMT exam to have graduated from an accredited paramedic educational program. As an at-large member, this candidate will represent the membership as a whole rather than representing a specific area of expertise.

The NREMT is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of twenty-one representatives from all segments of the EMS community as well as a public representative. Board members are committed to public protection and quality patient care. Members of the Board are elected in November of each year and begin their four-year terms on January 1. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Past President and Immediate Past President serve as the Executive Committee. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and CV/Resume by Oct. 15, 2011 to:

Nominations Committee, c/o NREMT, P.O. Box 29233, Columbus, OH 43229

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However, each of the 50 states in the U.S. may adopt a variety of policies and educational interpretations regarding what you will need to do to complete the “transition.”

Because of the state variations, the NREMT has implemented a standardized reporting process, outlined in this newsletter, which you will need to follow to maintain your National EMS Certification and become an Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT). Please note, the education you must complete, the course length, format and locations are under the direction of your State EMS Office. If you telephone the NREMT with questions on where to attend these courses, or on what you are to do to obtain the education, the NREMT will be referring you to your respective State EMS Office.

The NREMT is requiring the education as part of our continued certification process but we do not provide education. Providing EMS education is a state or local EMS system responsibility. We will recognize your state approved education and we are requesting that your education course completion certificate indicates you have completed a “transition/refresher” course.

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**National Registry of
Emergency Medical Technicians®**
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ROCCO V. MORANDO BUILDING
6610 BUSCH BLVD.
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43229

PHONE: 614.888.4484
FAX: 614.888.8920
www.nremt.org

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Part of the mission of the NREMT is to assure uniform requirements are met by all those who possess and display the "NR" post-nominals. Certification that is standardized across states and throughout the nation assures the public, public officials, state licensing agencies, EMS medical directors, employers, fellow EMS providers and most importantly your patients that you possess and meet uniform certification requirements designed to help assure safe and effective practice.

Sincerely,

William E. Brown, Jr.
Executive Director

PLANNING TO PURSUE NATIONAL EMS CERTIFICATION AT THE PARAMEDIC LEVEL?

Seek an Accredited Education Program!

The NREMT Board of Directors made the decision in 2008, that beginning on January 1, 2013, new enrollees in Paramedic programs who will be seeking the NREMT National EMS Certification at the Paramedic level must have successfully completed education from an accredited program or one that is seeking accreditation sponsored by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

The decision to require a single national accreditation agency for Paramedic educational programs follows the recommendations of the *National EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. Implementation of accreditation has been recommended in the *Institute of Medicine Report EMS at the Crossroads*.

The Accreditation policy can be reviewed on the NREMT website (www.nremt.org) under General Policies.