



# The Registry

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

WWW.NREMT.ORG

The Nation's EMS Certification™

## Your Transition Plan: From EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic

Fall 2011

### **An Important Letter from the Executive Director You Will Soon Be a Nationally Registered Paramedic (NRP)...**

#### **...and no longer an EMT-Paramedic.**

During the next four years everyone in EMS will be going through a “transition” from levels of certification designated in the 1990s 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 Paramedic (NRP).***

**First a little history regarding the EMS title** of Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic and the new title Paramedic. In 1977, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published the first National Standard EMT-Paramedic

curriculum; then known as the 15-module EMT-Paramedic Curriculum. Prior to that date some states and cities operated Paramedic services but there were no national standards for education and certification. In 1979 the NREMT provided the first national certification for EMT-Paramedics. In the mid-80s the DOT published a revision of the EMT-Paramedic, then known as the six division curriculum. Finally in 1997 the DOT published the current and last EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum.

**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-Paramedic to simply Paramedic. The dropping of the EMT prefix at the Paramedic level was inten-

tional by these stakeholders. These stakeholders want “professional” EMS providers. Providers who not only know how to assess and treat patients, but what is occurring physiologically to the patient during the time of crisis. They wanted a more broad based education for these professionals and thus requested of the EMS educators who wrote the subsequent EMS Education Standards that a comprehensive level of depth and breadth be part of the new education standards at the Paramedic level. And so the underlying philosophy of who a Paramedic is and what he/she should know has been changed.

**Although many providers** believe “skills” determine the value of a provider the focus of these changes were to increase the “knowledge” of future Paramedic providers when compared to those educated under the 1997 National Standard Curriculum.

*cont. on pg. 3*



*The new Paramedic patch.*

### **LOOK FOR YOUR SPECIAL E-MAIL 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-Paramedic to the new Paramedic 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-Paramedic to Paramedic

**All NREMT-Paramedics 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-Paramedic to Paramedic transition course in order to be eligible for National EMS Certification as a Paramedic (NRP).

**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-Paramedic's name
- transition course completion date
- the following statement: "[your name] has completed a State approved EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic transition course
- the name of the sponsoring agency
- signature of the individual responsible for the training

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

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



## Additional Content That May Be Included

- BiPAP, CPAP, PEEP
- ETCO<sub>2</sub> monitoring
- NG/OG tube
- Chest tube monitoring
- Access indwelling catheters and implanted central IV ports
- Morgan lens
- Administer physician-approved meds

**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-Paramedic to Paramedic)

1. Ask your Training Officer when the State-approved EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic 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-Paramedic to Paramedic 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 Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) upon reaching your 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 includes the above information.

*“Letter” cont. from pg. 1*

**These changes in responsibilities and knowledge** nationally require each state to review their scopes of practice and assure providers, at least, meet 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. 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 that you will need to follow to maintain your National EMS Certification and become a Paramedic (NRP). Please note, the education you must complete, the course length, format and locations are under the direction of your State EMS Office.

*cont. on pg. 4*



**National Registry of  
Emergency Medical Technicians®**  
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## **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.

*"Letter" cont. from pg. 3*

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 does 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.

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 practices.

Sincerely,

William E. Brown, Jr.,  
Executive Director