



# The Registry

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

WWW.NREMT.ORG

*The Nation's EMS Certification™*

## Your Transition Plan: From First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

Fall 2011

### *A Letter from the Executive Director* **You Will Soon be a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Responder (NREMR)...**

**...and no longer a First Responder.** 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 Responder (NREMR).***

**First a little history regarding the EMS title** of "First Responder" and the new Emergency Medical Responder. For many years EMS via some states has designated non-transport "first responders" as First Responders. Many first responders were educated via a 1980's Department of Transportation (DOT) course titled Crash Injury Management: For Law Enforcement Personnel. Non-transport meant these responders went to the scene but did not have the full

education and authorization to "transport" a patient to the hospital. In 1997 the DOT, based upon a request of the state EMS offices, developed a national standard curriculum for "First Responders," and soon after the NREMT implemented a certification.

**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 First Responder to Emergency Medical Responders and in most cases expanding their patient care abilities. Added to the national scope was use of AED's, oxygen, BVM's, splinting skills and self administration of medications during poison gas attacks.

**These changes in responsibilities** 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 the 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 an Emergency Medical Responder. 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 offer the education. Providing EMS education is a state or local EMS system responsibility.

*cont. on pg. 4*



*The new NREMR 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 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 First Responder to the new EMR 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 NREMT's 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.

## First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder

All NREMT First Responders who have expiration dates of September 30, 2011 or September 30, 2012 have two registration cycles (four years) to complete a state approved First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder transition course in order to be eligible for National EMS Certification as an Emergency Medical Responder (NREMR).



**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:

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

**To transition to the EMR level**, the First Responder is not required to complete a National EMS Certification Examination.

**NREMT First Responders who do not attend the required state approved transition course** from First Responder to EMR will be dropped from the registry of National EMS Certification upon reaching their expiration date of September 30, 2015 or 2016.

## Additional Content That May Be Included

- Oxygen administration
- Nasopharyngeal airway
- Manual BP
- AED
- Eye irrigation
- Autoinjectors for self or peer rescue
- Hemorrhage control (direct pressure)

**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 (First Responder to EMR)

1. Ask your Training Officer when the State approved First Responder to EMR 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 First Responder to EMR transition/refreshers 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 (September 30)

*Failure to provide the required documentation within two recertification cycles will result in your being removed from the registry of Nationally Certified EMS Providers.*

### **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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Emergency Medical Technicians®**  
THE NATIONS EMS CERTIFICATION™

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*“Letter” cont. from pg. 1*

We will recognize your state approved education and we are requesting that your education course completion certificate indicate that 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 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](http://www.nremt.org)) under General Policies.