



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JOHN E. MORRIS
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

To: Maine EMS Training Centers & Instructor Coordinators
From: Drexell White
Subject: June 1, 2012, Transition to National Registry of EMT Exam Process

Date: April 27, 2012

Introduction

On June 1, 2012, Maine will begin using the National Registry of EMT psychomotor (practical) testing process for the practical skills evaluations (PSE) at the First Responder, EMT-Basic and EMT-Intermediate levels.

Also effective on June 1, 2012, the NREMT Advanced EMT (AEMT) cognitive exam will become the cognitive exam for the EMT-Intermediate level.

With the June 1st transition, all levels of EMS providers in Maine will be tested using the NREMT psychomotor and cognitive exam processes (candidates at the Paramedic level have been examined using the NREMT psychomotor and cognitive exam since 2007). Moving all license levels to NREMT psychomotor and cognitive exams help will ensure a consistent and fair experience for EMS license candidates and provide a defensible examination process for the Maine EMS system.

PSEs under the current Maine EMS PSE process for First Responder, EMT-Basic or EMT-Intermediate will no longer be authorized or conducted after May 31, 2012. Likewise, the Maine EMS EMT-Intermediate "paper and pencil" written exam will no longer be available after May 31, 2012.

As of June 1, 2012, cognitive state testing at all Maine EMS provider license level will be scheduled through the candidate's NREMT account and conducted at a Pearson Vue Testing Center or Pearson Vue Affiliate Testing Center.

The State's PSEA Administrators will be attending NREMT training in May to learn and familiarize them about the NREMT process, and will be ready to conduct PSEs using the NREMT process for all psychomotor exams held on or after June 1, 2012.

First Responder & EMT-Basic

The NREMT Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) psychomotor and cognitive exams will be used to evaluate candidates for Maine EMS First Responder (FR) licenses, and the NREMT EMT psychomotor and cognitive exams will be used to evaluate candidates for Maine EMS EMT-Basic Licenses.

PHONE: (207) 626-3860

TTY: (207) 287-3659

FAX: (207) 287-6251

With offices located at the Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330

Training Centers

Training Centers (TCs) will continue to:

- Schedule FR and EMT-B PSEs as they have done in the past by contacting a State PSE administrator, completing the *PSE Scheduling Form* and submitting the form along with the \$250.00 Administrator fee to Maine EMS;
- Submit the PSE information to the Maine EMS electronic calendar; and,
- Be responsible for:
 - Scheduling PSEs;
 - Obtaining and scheduling examiners and programmed patients;
 - Providing a suitable facility for the PSE
 - Providing examiner test packets and associated testing paperwork
 - Providing moulage for use at the patient assessment station
 - Ensuring that stations are set up with the necessary equipment and supplies
 - Running the exam rotation system for funneling students to and from skill stations

There are some significant changes to the FR and EMT-B PSE process that include:

- PSE Administrators will conduct the exam and be responsible for grading candidate scores.
 - A separate, private room will be required for the PSE Administrator to coordinate and grade candidate results.
- The PSE must have a Quality Review Committee made up of the PSE Administrator, the Exam Coordinator (i.e. the TC representative on-site) and the course's medical director (if the medical director is not on-site, he or she must be available by phone during the exam). The Quality Review Committee will make decisions concerning student complaints and act on any issues that cannot be resolved by the PSE Administrator.
- The skill stations are pass/fail vs. the current PSEs' cumulative scoring, and use "Critical Criteria" as part of the scoring.
- The PSE Administrator and Exam Coordinator will determine if same-day re-tests will be made available to candidates.
- The number of attempts that a candidate has at completing the psychomotor exam has changed. Instructor Coordinators should ensure that candidates understand the requirements and re-test process. For instance:
 - At the EMT (Basic) level, if a candidate is unsuccessful at three or less stations, the candidate will have two additional attempts to complete the stations missed. However, if the candidate misses more than three stations, the candidate has failed the first full attempt at the PSE (i.e., no station retest opportunities) and must complete remedial training prior to being allowed a second full attempt at the PSE (a total of two full attempts are allowed. Failing two full attempts, the candidate would be required to complete a full original course in order to once again be eligible to sit for the PSE).

Instructor Coordinators need to inform their students about the process and stress that the student needs to be well-prepared for the exam.

- The Maine EMS *Application for Testing and for a New License to Practice EMS Patient Care* form is being revised to include information about station re-tests and a sign-off for TCs that have provided remedial psychomotor training to candidates who failed their first full attempt. All candidates participating in a FR or EMT-B PSE on or after June 1, 2012, must have one of the revised forms completed and available at the PSE.

TCs and ICs need to review and become familiar with the EMR and EMT User's Guides that may be found on the NREMT web site at:

https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/exam_coord_man.asp#Manuals

EMT-Intermediate (AEMT) and Paramedic

The process for conducting psychomotor exams at the EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic level differs from delivery of the FR (EMR) and EMT level exams. Whereas all scheduling for the basic level exams is done through Maine EMS, scheduling and notification for AEMT and Paramedic level PSEs are done through Maine EMS and the NREMT. While the following information is redundant in many ways to the FR (EMR) and EMT PSE process, please note the differences.

For EMT-Intermediate (AEMT) and Paramedic exam processes:

- The TC
 - Confirms a PSE date with a PSE Administrator who is authorized to conduct NREMT exams at the AEMT or Paramedic levels
 - Applies to NREMT to conduct a psychomotor exam;
 - Sends Maine EMS a *PSE Scheduling Form* and fee (\$450.00 for either AEMT or Paramedic);
 - Submits the PSE information to the Maine EMS electronic calendar;
 - Verifies student course completion through the Center's NREMT online account;
 - Provides NREMT with a roster of candidates prior to the PSE date (see the *Advanced Level Examination Coordinator Manual* for specifics); and,
 - Is responsible for:
 - Scheduling AEMT and Paramedic PSEs;
 - Obtaining and scheduling examiners and programmed patients;
 - Providing a suitable facility for the PSE;
 - Providing moulage for use at the patient assessment station
 - Ensuring that stations are set up with the necessary equipment and supplies; and,
 - Running the exam rotation system for funneling students to and from skill stations.
- PSE Administrators will conduct the exam and be responsible for grading candidate scores
 - A separate, private room is required for the PSE Administrator to coordinate and grade candidate results.

- PSE Administrators for AEMT and Paramedic-level PSEs will provide all candidate and examiner paperwork, blank skill sheets, scenarios and rosters.
- The PSE must have a Quality Review Committee made up of the PSE Administrator, the Exam Coordinator (i.e. the TC representative on-site) and the course's medical director (if the medical director is not on-site, he or she must be available by phone during the exam) The Quality Review Committee will make decisions concerning student complaints and act on any issues that cannot be resolved by the PSE Administrator.
- The skill stations are pass/fail vs. the current PSE cumulative scoring and use "Critical Criteria" as part of the scoring.
- The PSE Administrator and Exam Coordinator will determine if same-day re-tests will be made available to candidates.
- The number of attempts that a candidate has at completing the psychomotor exam has changed. Instructor Coordinators should ensure that candidates understand the requirements and re-test process. For instance:
 - At the EMT-Intermediate (AEMT) level, if a candidate is unsuccessful at four or less stations, the candidate will have two additional attempts to complete the stations missed. However, if the candidate is unsuccessful at more than four stations, the candidate has failed the first full attempt at the PSE (i.e., no station retest opportunities) and must complete remedial training prior to being allowed a second full attempt at the PSE (a total of two full attempts are allowed. Failing two full attempts, the candidate will be required to complete a full original course in order to once again be eligible to sit for the PSE).

Instructor Coordinators need to inform their students about the process and stress that students need to be well-prepared for the exam.

- The Maine EMS *Application for Testing and for a New License to Practice EMS Patient Care* form has no area for documenting advanced level psychomotor or cognitive testing. All test results are validated by and obtained from the NREMT. However, training centers will continue to provide course completion information on the form.

TCs and ICs need to review and become familiar with the *Advanced Level Examination Coordinator Manual* that may be found on the NREMT web site at:

https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/exam_coord_man.asp#Manuals

Resources

The following resources may prove helpful during and after the transition process:

- The revised Maine EMS Exam Administration Manual:
http://maine.gov/dps/ems/documents/Exam_Administration_Manual.pdf
- NREMT Candidate Information – Prepare for Success on the NREMT Cognitive Exam
<https://www.nremt.org/nremt/downloads/NREMT%20Candidate%20Web%206.2.09.pdf>

- In addition to the Users and Exam Coordinator Manual, the following link also includes equipment lists, skills sheets and oral stations information.
https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/exam_coord_man.asp
- NREMT webinars are available that cover a wide range of topics
<https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/resourcesWebinars.asp>
- Information about applying for an advanced level psychomotor exam may be found in the *Exam Coordinator's Step-by-Step Online Procedures for Advanced Exams*
<https://www.nremt.org/nremt/downloads/NREMTECAdvancedProcedures.pdf>