



JANET T MILLS
GOVERNOR

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



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

Examination Committee

Tuesday

21 Apr 2020

0900-1100

Online Zoom teleconference, due to COVID-19

Minutes

Members Present: Sally Taylor, Joanne Lebrun, Jeremy Damren, Ben Zetterman, Rick Petrie, Cheri Volta, Kelly Roderick

Members Absent:

Staff: Chris Azevedo, Marc Minkler, Griffin Bourassa

Stakeholders: Dennis Russell, AJ Gagnon, Don Sheets, Eric Wellman, Amy Drinkwater, Debbie Morgan, Michel Mullin, Steve Smith

“The mission of Maine EMS is to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective Emergency Medical Services system to ensure optimum patient care with standards for all providers. All members of this committee should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this committee, we commit to serve the respective providers, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.”

I. Call to Order

- a. Introductions- Statement read.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of March 2020 minutes.
 - i. Joanne Lebrun made a motion to table the approval of minutes to next month. The motion was seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

III. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a. None

IV. State Update

- a. Staffing- none

V. New Business

- a. Re-integrating PSE's with NREMT revisions and CDC/state guidelines
 - i. Eric Wellman sent SMCC template for testing procedures for review by the Committee and shared it with the group.

- ii. Group discussion ensues around committee approach to the task of developing standard guidelines that can be operationalized.
- iii. The group decides to start with discussing changes to each of the examination skills stations and integrating the modification recommendations from the NREMT.
 - 1. Concerns are expressed that every candidate should have the same evaluation across the board, despite COVID precautions.
 - 2. CPR
 - a. The question is brought to the group as to whether or not to exclude the CPR/AED station altogether, as a way of complying with CDC state requirements. Discussion.
 - i. All programs require H/C Provider CPR card anyway, why test it?
 - ii. Discussion regarding the validity of this modification ensues.
 - iii. A decision on this is delayed in favor of gaining more information.
 - b. Discussion on modifications for ventilation during single-rescuer CPR.
 - c. AED
 - i. Device will already be out and within reach of candidate for social distancing purposes. The instructor can verbalize to the candidate when the device is available for the scenario purposes.
 - d. Respirations
 - i. Discussion regarding using pocket mask with verbalization of ventilations
 - 3. Discussion on manikin use in testing stations
 - a. Manikin cleaning between every student
 - b. Decision made to substitute manikins for live patients. Evaluator would have to act in place of live patients. Evaluator would have to respond to stimulus in place of the patients.
 - 4. Assessment stations
 - a. Lo-fi manikins, candidate goes through motions, and vital signs are simulated/given by evaluator
 - b. Candidate treatments can be verbalized, as they currently are under normal examination conditions.
 - 5. Random A
 - a. Bleeding: lo-fi manikin, instructor prompts
 - b. O2 NRB: Lo-fi manikin, no changes
 - c. BVM: Lo-fi manikin, no changes
 - 6. Random B
 - a. No second providers

- b. Long bone Splinting:
 - i. Long bone, lower extremity.
 - c. Joint:
 - i. Wrist, ankle
 - d. Supine spinal immobilization
 - i. Significant discussion as to ability to conduct this station and if the integrity of the exam will be compromised by not testing this station.
 - ii. Chris Azevedo (Maine EMS) recommends that the candidate may verbalize procedures for moving the manikin onto the backboard. Then, at the instructor's prompting, the candidate may then (only for purposes of readying the station for demonstration of securing the patient to the backboard, and not part of the evaluation) position the manikin onto the backboard and demonstrate proper securing of the patient to the backboard. Any actions of a second provider would be verbalized to the provider.
 - 1. The purpose in doing this is to maintain the capacity for the candidate to demonstrate the ability to properly secure the patient to the Board as is part of the station, and to maintain the integrity of the station.
 - iii. The Committee decides the suggestion is not feasible due to issues with candidates being able to lift and/or position manikins by themselves.
 - iv. The Committee eliminates the station on the grounds that this station is not safe to execute, as it requires too many persons. The risks outweigh the benefits; therefore, it will not be an option.
 - v. Disagreement with decision by Maine EMS Representative noted.
 - e. Seated
 - i. Discussion of this station regarding candidate safety, etc.
 - ii. For period of social distancing, this station is not safe to execute, as it requires too many persons. The risks outweigh the benefits; therefore, it will not be an option. Agreement by Maine EMS Representative.
- iv. Joanne Lebrun made the motion to accept the above recommendations for modifications in accordance with CDC and state recommendations.

Jeremy Damren seconds the motion. Discussion ensues. The motion is carried.

- v. Motion made by Amy Drinkwater that changes to EMR PSE should mirror those of EMT, in light of CDC and state COVID recommendations. Jeremy Damren seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
- vi. Discussion of operational logistics of conducting the exam.
 - 1. Exam Committee logistics versus those the Training Center would be responsible for.
 - 2. Discussion of delivery methods for both Candidate and Exam Evaluator briefs.
 - a. Joanne Lebrun makes a motion that requirement for instructions to be read be waived in consideration of COVID conditions and allow that they may be viewed by video or read by the candidates, themselves. The motion is seconded by Kelly Roderick. Discussion. The motion carried.
 - 3. The group discussion regarding possibility of increased exam costs due to more exam hours required due to executing COVID accommodations and/or more frequent exams with smaller testing cohorts.
 - 4. Discussion regarding approved self-supplied candidate equipment.
 - 5. Suggestion by Maine EMS representative that in addition to the exam modifications above, a list of standard criteria to ensure operational plans developed by Training Centers would address specific CDC/state COVID recommendations should be developed, as well as a process by which such a plan may be reviewed and vetted prior to presentation to the EMS Board. This suggestion was rejected by the Committee at this time, as it was opined by stakeholders present and the Committee, that operational plans for conducting exams under COVID conditions need not be addressed by the Committee or Maine EMS, and that such plans should be developed independently by the Training Centers.

VI. Old Business

- a. Psychomotor skills portfolios- not covered due to time for above discussions. To be put on agenda for May meeting.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and Time: Tuesday, 19 May 2020

VIII. Adjournment:

- IX.** Motion to adjourn made by Amy Drinkwater. Motion seconded by Kelly Roderick. No discussion. The motion is carried. Meeting adjourned at 1100 hrs.