

Proposal to the Maine EMS Board

Standards for Education Programs For Maine EMS Licensure Re-Entry Candidates At the EMT Level

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The Ask:

1. For the EMS Board to approve the following:
 - a. the concept of a “re-entry evaluation” for those seeking Maine EMS licensure via the NREMT program
 - b. the herein proposed standards for re-entry evaluation resulting in the verification of psychomotor skills competencies for NREMT certification and Maine EMS licensure at the EMT level.

History

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) has long had an established pathway for persons who were previously certified at, or above, the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level to regain certification without having to repeat the entire course of initial education. This pathway is known as “Re-entry Certification.”

Obtaining NREMT certification via the re-entry pathway has also facilitated re-entry of persons with expired EMS licenses to regain EMS licensure in Maine (via current NREMT certification). This is a pathway to EMS licensure which is beneficial to maintaining an adequate pool of licensed EMS clinicians in Maine.

Problem Statement

The re-entry pathway for NREMT certification at the EMT level is dependent upon a state-approved mechanism for verifying psychomotor skills competencies. With the Board decision to sunset the traditional psychomotor skills examination (PSE) in favor of psychomotor skills portfolios, that method of skills verification will be eliminated. The lack of an alternate and more supportable method makes continued support of the re-entry pathway for licensing questionable.

Neither the Maine EMS office nor the training centers authorized to conduct licensure courses have the resources to maintain support of the current PSE. At the same time, it has been determined by both the training centers and the Maine EMS office that putting re-entry licensure candidates through a full psychomotor skills portfolio would be costly, resource intensive and inefficient.

Recommendations

1. After some months of discussion and work by training centers and the Maine EMS office it was decided that a more efficient and supportable model for licensure re-entry candidates would be the development of a set of standards for an educational program that would accomplish the following objectives:
 - Upon completion of the evaluation, the candidate will have satisfied the NREMT requirement for verification of psychomotor skills competency via a method approved by the Maine Board of EMS
 - Assess re-entry candidate skills training needs
 - Allow didactic and skills refresher training as needed
 - Verify psychomotor skills in a manner based upon
 - current EMT skills portfolio standards
 - EMT scope of practice in Maine and best current field practices
2. In turn, training centers authorized to conduct licensure courses could then develop their own “Re-entry Licensure” curriculum, based upon these curriculum standards.

Program Standards

I. Candidate Eligibility

To be eligible for the re-entry EMT program, the candidate must provide evidence of the following:

- Prior state EMS licensure (any state) **OR** prior NREMT certification at or above the level of EMT
- Hold a current certification in Basic Life Support at the “Healthcare Provider” level (American Heart Association **or other** equivalent certification)
- Meet any additional training center requirements for program enrollment
- Meet any additional requirements for NREMT certification at the EMT level
- Meet all additional requirements for Maine EMS licensure
 - *Note: A candidate successfully completing a “Re-entry Evaluation” must still successfully complete a background check to remain eligible for EMS licensure via the re-entry process. That process would not be completed until after the candidate completes the “Re-entry Evaluation.”*

II. Curriculum Design

As the “Re-entry” candidate has had prior formative training and certification, it may not be necessary to conduct a full and comprehensive formative skills program, as would be done in a licensure course. For this reason, given these standards, the training center may develop an abbreviated program of didactic

and/or skills refresher training based upon the EMT psychomotor skills portfolio process.

1. Because completion of this evaluation performs the same function of verifying skills competency for licensure purposes as does a licensure course, Maine EMS Licensure Re-Entry evaluation is considered a process leading to licensure. Development, administration, and delivery of this evaluation may only be conducted by training centers which have been authorized by Maine EMS to conduct licensure courses.
2. The curriculum must:
 - a. Clearly state course enabling and terminal objectives
 - b. Clearly state candidate requirements for successful completion
 - c. Include all candidate cognitive (if applicable- see above) and psychomotor skills evaluation instruments and metrics
 - d. Include all summative scenario evaluation types in accordance with the Maine EMS standard for EMT portfolios
 - e. Include all goals and objectives as appropriate, in accordance with Maine EMS Training Center Standards.
 - f. Maintain student program records in accordance with training center standards.
 - g. Maintain documentation of student progress in accordance with standards for use of EMT portfolios.
 - h. Maintain documentation of verification/attestation of skills competency in accordance with standards for use of EMT portfolios
 - i. Be reviewed and approved by the Program Director and Program Medical Director in accordance with standards for use of EMT portfolios.
3. Instructor Qualifications
 - a. All instructors and evaluators must be qualified to teach in accordance with:
 - i. Maine EMS Training Center Standards
4. The Training Center will issue a Maine EMS CEH course number and track re-entry candidates as an EMT student.
 - a. Re-entry candidates will be included in the Training Center annual report process.
5. Review and Update
 - a. The program must be reviewed and updated by the Training Center at an interval contemporaneous with review and update of the EMT psychomotor skills portfolio itself.

III. Psychomotor Skills

Given the proper equipment and context, the candidate will demonstrate the following skills, procedures, and assessments, to a qualified evaluator(s), to an entry-level standard, in accordance with current standard of care. The candidate must demonstrate competency in all listed skills*

Airway & Breathing Management

- BVM, Adult
- BVM, Child/Infant
- BVM, Newborn/Neonate
- CPAP, Oxygen Powered Device
- FBAO, Adult
- FBAO, Infant
- Insert NPA
- Insert OPA
- Oral suctioning
- Oxygen by mask
- Oxygen by nasal cannula

Assessment Skills

- Assessment & Treatment of a Medical Complaint
- Assessment & Treatment Traumatic Injury
- Assessment of Vital Signs
- Glucometer
- Pulse oximetry

Cardiac Management

- 12-Lead ECG Acquisition
- CPR and AED, Adult
- CPR and AED, Child/Infant
- CPR and AED, Newborn/Neonate

Medication Administration

- Autoinjector
- Intramuscular (IM) injection
- Intranasal (IN)
- Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI)
- Mouth (PO)

Medication Administration (cont'd)

- Small Volume Nebulizer (SVN)
- Sublingual (SL)

Obstetrics

- Perform an uncomplicated delivery of a full-term newborn and provide newborn care

Operations

- Lift and transfer a patient to the stretcher
- Mechanical patient restraint

Trauma Management

- Cervical Collar Placement
- Dress/Bandage a Soft Tissue Injury
- Eye irrigation
- Immobilize/Splint a Joint Injury
- Immobilize/Splint a Long Bone Injury
- Occlusive Dressing to Thorax
- Perform a Spinal Rule In/Rule Out Assessment
- Perform Spinal Motion Restriction
- Stabilize an Impaled Object
- Tourniquet Application

*These skills may change in accordance with National EMS Education Standards, National EMS Scope of Practice Model, and Maine Prehospital protocols. This list of skills should be reviewed and updated regularly and periodically in accordance with this standard.

IV. Summative Scenario

1. Summative assessments with skill performance must be utilized to evaluate the student's final competency. These assessments must include:
 - a. One Adult/Geriatric
 - i. Cardiac Arrest
or
 - ii. Medical complaint

- or
 - iii. Traumatic injury
 - b. One Pediatric
 - i. Cardiac Arrest
 - or
 - ii. Medical complaint
 - or
 - iii. Traumatic injury
 - c. Summative assessments must include a documented patient care report (PCR) for each summative scenario in the Maine EMS-approved run report system and be reviewed by a Training Center instructor.

V. Review and Update of This Standard

1. This standard shall be reviewed in collaboration with the Training Center Program leadership regularly and periodically in alignment with the following:
 - a. Update of the Maine EMS Prehospital Protocols
 - b. Expansions in the EMT Scope of Practice in Maine
 - c. As needed

Resources:

1. NREMT website: <https://www.nremt.org/Document/EMT-Re-entry-Pathway>
2. Maine EMS.(2022) Standards for Use of EMT Psychomotor Skills Portfolios
3. Maine EMS. (2023) Maine EMS Training Center Standards