



The Registry

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY
MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

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The Nation's EMS Certification™

Your Transition Plan: From EMT-Intermediate/99 to Paramedic

Fall 2011

An Important Letter from the Executive Director You Will Soon Transition to be a Paramedic

...and no longer an EMT-Intermediate/99. During the next four to six 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 Paramedic (NRP).

First a little history regarding the EMS title of EMT-Intermediate/99 and why EMT-I/99s who wish to maintain National EMS Certification must become Paramedics. The title EMT-Intermediate has been used since the late 1970's. Many states found

the gap of knowledge and skills between then established EMT-Ambulance and EMT-Paramedic to be too large to absorb in one education program. Therefore, many states started adopting a variety of Intermediate levels to meet state specific needs. So many were adopted that some reported over 30+ levels of EMS certification existed and most were between the traditional EMT-A (later changed to EMT-B) and the EMT-Paramedic level.

Fragmentation was the "norm" in EMS licensure. In 1994 the NREMT hosted a blue ribbon panel of EMS stakeholders who developed the first *EMS Education and Practice Blueprint*. This panel attempted to resolve all the Intermediate level fragmentation by outlining a new EMT-Intermediate level. In 1999 the Department of Transportation (DOT) released a new EMT-Intermediate national standard curriculum. Immediately the new Intermediate curriculum was rejected by some states and eventually the National Association of

State EMS Directors (now the National Association of State EMS Officials) asked the NREMT Board to retain an older DOT EMT-Intermediate Curriculum published in 1985 as an additional standard.

Fragmentation was to continue until between 2004 and 2006 when the DOT appointed a task force headed by the National Association of State EMS Officials to develop the *National EMS Scope of Practice Model (SOP)*. After two years of work and receipt of input from across the nation the SOP task force chose to adopt a level between EMT and Paramedic; the new Advanced EMT. Because the NREMT Board of Directors is strongly committed to implementation of the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*, the NREMT chose to eliminate continuance of National EMS Certification at the EMT-Intermediate levels.

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The new Paramedic 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 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-I/99 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-Intermediate/99 to Paramedic

All NREMT-Intermediate/99s will have three registration cycles (six years) to complete a state approved Intermediate/99 to Paramedic transition course in order to be eligible for National EMS Certification as a Paramedic (NRP).

To be awarded National EMS Certification as an NRP all NREMT-Intermediate/99s, after completing the approved transition course, must successfully complete the NRP computer delivered cognitive examination.

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-Intermediate/99's name
- transition course completion date
- the following statement: "[your name] has completed a state approved EMT-Intermediate/99 to Advanced Paramedic transition course.
- the name of the sponsoring agency
- signature of the individual responsible for the training

NREMT-Intermediate/99s must complete an online application, including submission of a \$110.00 application fee and successfully complete the NRP cognitive examination prior to their Intermediate/99 expiration date.

Intermediate/99s who are unable to successfully complete the NRP cognitive exam by their expiration date will be issued an NRAEMT certification and have 2 years from date of lapse to obtain NRP certification provided they meet all NREMT requirements currently in effect.

All Intermediate/99s transitioning will have a maximum of six attempts to successfully complete the NRP cognitive exam.

Any Intermediate/99 transitioning who fails six attempts will be required to successfully complete an entire CAAHEP-accredited Paramedic education program to regain eligibility to apply for NRP certification.

NREMT-Intermediate/99s who submit an acceptable recertification application but do not include successful completion of a state-approved transition course from EMT-Intermediate/99 to Paramedic will be issued National EMS Certification as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT) upon reaching their expiration date of March 31, 2017 or 2018.

Additional Content That May Be Included

- ECG interpretation, including 12-lead ECG
- BiPAP, CPAP, PEEP
- Chest tube monitoring
- ETCO₂ monitoring
- NG/OG tube
- 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 (I/99 to Paramedic)

1. Ask your Training Officer when the State-approved EMT-Intermediate/99 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 three 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-Intermediate/99 to Paramedic transition/refreshers course.”
 - the name of the sponsoring agency
 - the signature of the instructor
5. Log in to your NREMT account
6. Complete Paramedic transition application, including submission of the \$110.00 application fee
7. Successfully complete the Paramedic cognitive examination prior to your 2017 or 2018 Intermediate/99 expiration date
8. 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 three 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, 2017 or 2018.

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All NREMT Intermediate/85's & NREMT-Intermediate/99's will have to transition to a new level of care. **Therefore, you can choose to become Nationally Certified at either the new Advanced EMT level or at the Paramedic level.** To become an Advanced EMT there is little or nothing to do since you already have the requisite knowledge and skills of the new NRAEMT.

To become Nationally Certified as a Paramedic (NRP), you must complete a state approved I/99 to Paramedic transition course within the next six years and then pass the National Paramedic computer based cognitive examination sometime after January 1, 2013. Because your I/99 practical examination covered nearly all of the skills in the Paramedic practical you will not have to take an official NRP practical examination; just the computer examination.

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 in order to be a Paramedic. However, there are many states in the U.S. who have the I/99 designation, and they may adopt a variety of policies and educational interpretations regarding what you will need to do to complete the “transition” to the Paramedic level.

Because of the state variations, the NREMT has implemented a standardized reporting process, outlined in this newsletter, that you will need to follow to gain your National EMS Certification at the Paramedic level (NRP).

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Emergency Medical Technicians®**
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ROCCO V. MORANDO BUILDING
6610 BUSCH BLVD.
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43229

PHONE: 614.888.4484
FAX: 614.888.8920
www.nremt.org

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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 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/refreshers" 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

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.