



Colorado EMS Education and Certification Implementing the EMS Education Agenda for the Future 2011 Colorado Transition



HISTORY

The *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* establishes a system of EMS education that more closely parallels that of other health care professions. As part of this systems approach, The *National EMS Scope of Practice Model (NEMSSoPM)* calls for the reconfiguration of EMS provider levels in the United States. In 2008, based on stakeholder input and recommendations from the EMT Practice Subcommittee of the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC), Colorado chose to follow the *Scope of Practice Model*, as published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Emergency Medical Services in February of 2007. Colorado also chose to follow the *National EMS Education Standards* as the basis for initial EMS education leading to state certification as an EMS provider.

?? Frequently Asked Questions ??

BACKGROUND

Why is Colorado implementing the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future*?

The Colorado EMS community determined that adoption of the *Education Agenda*, the *Scope of Practice* and the *Education Standards* would align Colorado EMS with other health professions and EMS providers around the US.

What does Colorado have to do in order to adopt the EMS Education Agenda?

Two major components of the *Education Agenda* are the *Scope of Practice Model* and the *Education Standards*. Colorado must first revise the EMS Rules to allow for the adoption of the *Education Agenda* and then utilize the *Education Standards* in our training programs.

RULES

What are all the changes in the Rules and why?

First, the format and organization of the Rules has changed. Instead of having all of the rules governing various regulated functions of the EMS system in one document with multiple sections, the EMS Rules will contain five distinct chapters addressing specific regulatory areas as follows:

- Chapter One: Rules Pertaining to EMS Education and Certification
- Chapter Two: Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight (formerly BME Rule 500)
- Chapter Three: Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services Data and Information Collection and Record Keeping
- Chapter Four: Rules Pertaining to Licensure of Ground Ambulance Services
- Chapter Five: Rules Pertaining to Air Ambulance Licensing

Two major rule changes are required in order to fully adopt the recommendations of our stakeholders and SEMTAC:

- First – The Rules Pertaining to EMS Education and Certification must be revised to include the new terminology used for EMS provider levels and the certification and recertification requirements for the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician level (AEMT).
- Second – The Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight must also be revised to reflect the new EMS provider levels and define the scope of practice (medical acts and skills allowed) for the new level of AEMT.

When will these rule changes go into effect?

Chapters One ("EMS Education and Certification Rules"), Three ("Data Rules"), Four ("Ground Ambulance Licensing Rules"), and Five ("Air Ambulance Licensing Rules") will go before the Board of Health for adoption in May 2011 to be effective in July 2011.

Chapter Two ("The EMS Practice Rules") will go before the Department's Executive Director for adoption in May to be effective in July 2011.

What are the changes in the rules?

Below is a short summary of the major revisions. You can review all of the changes in the drafts of the proposed rules at www.coems.info.

Chapter One – "EMS Education and Certification Rules" - The majority of the revisions in this chapter include the changes in title for the various levels of EMS Provider and the addition of the AEMT level.

- The term "EMS Provider" has been added to the definitions to mean, "all levels of emergency medical technician certification as issued by the department".
The change in title does not reflect a change in scope of practice or IV authorization. The new levels of EMS providers are titled and described as:
- **EMT** -Emergency Medical Technician - An individual who is authorized to provide basic emergency care. This is the historic EMT-Basic level.
- **AEMT** – Advanced Emergency Medical Technician- An individual who is authorized to provide limited acts of advanced emergency care. This is a new level of provider
- **EMT-I** - Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (99) - An individual who is authorized to provided limited acts of advanced emergency medical care. This is the historic EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I OR EMT-I 99).
- **Paramedic** - An individual who is authorized to provide acts of advanced emergency medical care. This is the historic EMT-Paramedic level.
- EMS Education Programs that are currently recognized at the "old" levels will automatically be authorized using the new titles.
- EMS Education Programs that are currently recognized as an Intermediate "Center" or "Group" will automatically be recognized as an AEMT Center or Group respectively.
- Total continuing education hours did not change. However the number of pediatric and obstetrical hours was divided into two separate topic categories.
- The AEMT level will require 36 hours of continuing education (same hours as the EMT level).

Chapter Two- "EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight Rules" – The content of this chapter was just adopted in January 2011 and mirrors the "old" BME Rule 500. The majority of the revisions in this next rule change include the additional information pertaining to the Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC) and the new AEMT level.

- The term "EMS Provider" has been added to the definitions to mean, "all levels of emergency medical technician certification as issued by the department".
- The new level of AEMT was added throughout the Rule as appropriate.
- The new level titles of EMT, EMT-I and Paramedic replaced the old titles.
- AEMT medical acts, skills and medications were added to Appendices A, B, C, D.

Chapter Three – "Data Rules".

- Cross references and numbering have been updated.
- The definition of air ambulance service has been updated to eliminate a reference error.

Chapter Four - "Ground Ambulance Rules"

- Cross references and numbering have been updated.
- The reference to the latest edition of the GSA KK-A-1822 ambulance standard has been updated.

Chapter Five - "Air Ambulance Licensing Rules"

- Cross references and numbering have been updated.
- The definition of air ambulance service has been updated to eliminate a reference error.
- The reference to the latest edition of the CAMTS standards has been updated.

EMS PROVIDER LEVELS

What levels of providers will we have in Colorado?

After July 2011, Colorado will have 4 levels of EMS Providers.

EMT (formerly EMT-Basic)

EMT-I (Intermediate)

AEMT

Paramedic (formerly EMT-Paramedic)

How will the 4 levels of EMS providers be educated and what is the curriculum?

Currently there are over 40 EMS education programs in Colorado that provide initial education for EMS providers. Those programs will be responsible for revising their curriculums to meet the new **Education Standards** for the EMT, AEMT and Paramedic levels. The curriculum for the EMT-I level has not changed. Programs that currently teach at the EMT-I level will automatically be recognized to teach at the AEMT level as well.

INITIAL CERTIFICATION

How will EMS providers get certified in Colorado?

Currently, initial certification in Colorado requires that the individual have a valid National Registry registration and this will not change. Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the National Registry will no longer provide a registration examination at the EMT-I level. The National Registry will continue to provide the same examination as an assessment examination to states (like Colorado) who want to use it. So, after Jan. 1, 2014, individuals who successfully pass the National Registry EMT-I assessment examination will be able to apply for Colorado EMT-I certification.

RECERTIFICATION AND REREGISTRATION

How will we get recertified in Colorado?

EMS providers in Colorado will continue to be recertified if they meet the current recertification requirements (i.e, National Registry registration OR within 6 months of expiration date and completion of minimum CEUs and skills attestation, current CPR certification, current ACLS certification for EMT-I and Paramedic levels, and criminal history record check if applicable.

If I also have my National Registry, how will I get reregistered with the National Registry?

National Registry maintains current reregistration information and procedures on its website at www.nremt.org. After March 31, 2020, EMT-I's who wish to remain nationally registered must **EITHER** meet the reregistration requirements at the AEMT level **OR** complete the education and initial registration requirements at the Paramedic level.

TRANSITION

Will I be required to take a formal transition course to get recertified in Colorado?

Colorado will not require a formal transition course. It is incumbent on the agency and medical director to assure that their EMS providers are current with the educational information and scope of practice for their specific level of certification and practice.

If I still need more information, where can I find the answers?

- The *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*, *The National EMS Scope of Practice Model (NEMSSoPM)*, and *The National EMS Education Standards*:
www.ems.gov
- National Registry initial registration and reregistration:
www.nremt.org
- Colorado information regarding EMS Rules, Education, Certification and Recertification:
www.coems.info
- Colorado information regarding First Responders or Emergency Medical Responders:
www.dfs.state.co.us



GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF THE NEW EMS PROVIDER LEVELS

(July 2011)



Here are 3 tables which are designed to help answer questions you may have about the upcoming changes in EMS Provider levels and certification. At first glance these may seem confusing... just follow these few steps and will be able to easily find the information you need.

WHERE TO BEGIN

- > First....What type of certification OR registration are you asking about?
 - * **INITIAL** registration (by National Registry) and **INITIAL** certification by Colorado? (see **GREEN** sheet)
 - * Colorado **RE**-certification? (see the **PINK** sheet)
 - * National Registry **RE**-registration? (see the **BLUE** sheet)
- > Next....Identify the level of provider. Follow the arrow to find the information you need.

Here are some examples which demonstrate how to find the answer to your question:

INITIAL CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS – use the GREEN Sheet

Question ? - I am completing my EMT class in May of this year, how do I get Colorado certified?

Answer - Upon completion of the course, the applicant must successfully complete the National Registry process and apply for Colorado certification. **IF** the applicant applies **PRIOR** To July 1, 2011, the Colorado certificate will say EMT-BASIC. **IF** the applicant applies **AFTER** July 1, 2011 the certificate will say EMT. It is the same scope of practice, just a new name for the same level.

Question ? - I have completed my EMT-Intermediate course work and got my National Registry card, can I get certified in Colorado?

Answer - Yes, with a current National Registry card you may apply for Colorado certification. **AFTER Jan 1, 2014** EMT-Intermediate students will complete the National Registry **ASSESSMENT** exam (same written and same practical) but will **NOT** be receive a National Registry card. They **WILL** be able to apply for Colorado (only) certification.

STATE RECERTIFICATION QUESTIONS – use the PINK Sheet

Question ? - I am already certified as an EMT-Intermediate in Colorado, what do I have to do to get recertified?

Answer- A state certified EMT-I must meet the current requirements (50 hrs of CEUs, ACLS and CPR) to be recertified (nothing has changed).

Question ? - I am a state certified EMT-Intermediate, do I have to go to paramedic school to stay certified?

Answer - No, to stay state certified you must only meet the current requirements for state recertification as an EMT-I (50 hrs of CEUS, ACLS and CPR).

NATIONAL REGISTRY RE-REGISTRATION QUESTIONS – use the BLUE Sheet

Question ? - I am a National Registered EMT-Intermediate, do I have to go to paramedic school to stay registered by the National Registry?

Answer - An EMT-I will be able to re-register with the National Registry as long as they meet re-registration requirements through March 31, 2020. **AFTER** March 31, 2020, the EMT-I who wants to maintain a National Registry card will **either** receive an AEMT card upon re-registration **OR** may choose to complete a paramedic program and get registered as a Paramedic by the National Registry.








If you have any other questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Marilyn Bourn at (303) 692-2995 or marilyn.bourn@state.co.us.

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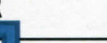
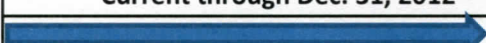
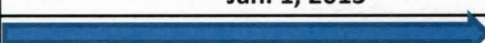
Initial Certification Process			
EMT Basic	<p>Current through June 30, 2011</p> <p>Successfully pass NR exam and obtain NR registration as EMT-Basic Apply for CO 3 yr certification as EMT-Basic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Renamed - EMT</p> <p>Successfully pass NR exam and obtain NR registration as EMT Apply for CO 3 yr certification as EMT</p>		
Advanced EMT	<p>Current through June 30, 2011</p> <p>Not yet available</p> <p>Successfully pass NR exam and obtain NR registration as AEMT Apply for CO 3 yr certification as AEMT</p>		
EMT-Intermediate	<p>Current through Dec. 31, 2013</p> <p>Successfully pass NR exam and obtain NR registration as EMT-Intermediate</p> <p>Apply for CO 3 yr certification as EMT-Intermediate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan. 1, 2014</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Successfully pass NR assessment exam *</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NO NR registration will be available</td> </tr> </table> <p>Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as EMT-Intermediate (* EMT-I may not be eligible for certification in any other state)</p>	Successfully pass NR assessment exam *	NO NR registration will be available
Successfully pass NR assessment exam *	NO NR registration will be available		
EMT-Paramedic	<p>Current through June 30, 2011</p> <p>Successfully pass NR exam and obtain NR registration as EMT-Paramedic Apply for CO 3 yr certification as EMT-Paramedic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Renamed - Paramedic</p> <p>Successfully pass NR exam and obtain NR registration as Paramedic Apply for CO 3 yr certification as Paramedic</p>		

*After Dec. 2013, the EMT-199 National Registry exam will continue to be made available in states that expect to maintain this level of practice. The exam will NOT provide national registration, but can be used by Colorado for state certification. At this time, the NR has not provided any indication that they will discontinue the exam in the foreseeable future.

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State Recertification Process				
	Current through June 30, 2011		July 1, 2011 -	
EMT Basic			Renamed - EMT 	
	Complete current requirements for recertification as EMT-Basic	Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as EMT-Basic	Complete current requirements for recertification as EMT	Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as EMT
Advanced EMT	Not yet available			
			Complete current requirements for recertification as AEMT	Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as AEMT
EMT- Intermediate				
	Complete current requirements for recertification as EMT-Intermediate	Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as EMT-Intermediate	Complete current requirements for recertification EMT-Intermediate	Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as EMT-Intermediate
EMT- Paramedic			Renamed - Paramedic 	
	Complete current requirements for recertification as EMT-Paramedic	Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as EMT-Paramedic	Complete current requirements for recertification as Paramedic	Apply for and obtain 3 yr CO certification as Paramedic

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National Registry Reregistration Process				
EMT Basic	Current through Dec. 31, 2011		Jan. 1, 2012 -	
	 Meet requirements for NR re-registration as EMT-Basic	Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as EMT-Basic	 Meet requirements for NR re-registration as EMT	Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as EMT
Advanced EMT	Not yet available		June 1, 2011 -	
			 Meet requirements for NR re-registration as AEMT	Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as AEMT
EMT-Intermediate	Current through March 31, 2020		April 1, 2020 -	
	 Meet requirements for NR re-registration as EMT-Intermediate	Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as EMT-Intermediate	Meet requirements for NR re-registration as AEMT	Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as AEMT
			 Complete educational requirements from an accredited Paramedic program	 Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as Paramedic
EMT-Paramedic	Current through Dec. 31, 2012		Jan. 1, 2013 -	
	 Meet requirements for NR re-registration as EMT-Paramedic	Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as EMT-Paramedic	 Meet requirements for NR re-registration as Paramedic	Apply and obtain 2 yr NR registration as Paramedic

Colorado does NOT require that National Registry registration be maintained.