



PROVIDER'S GUIDEBOOK

FOR THE ADOPTION OF
**NATIONAL EMS
STANDARDS**

MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
— DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH —

AUGUST 2013

director's note

Greetings,

This is an exciting time for the EMS community in Massachusetts! With our transition to national standards, come many exciting opportunities as well as new challenges. We have already seen improved alignment in many areas of EMS with providers, physicians, educators and hospitals. Leadership from many areas have proven highly effective in collaborating in order to meet the many individual and organizational needs as we step forward with these bold changes. I would like to thank all of you for your hard work, commitment and patience. Only together can we ensure that Massachusetts leads in providing the most advanced and sophisticated care for our patients.

Respectfully submitted,

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important terms to know

National EMS Scope of Practice

A nationwide quality improvement initiative to ensure that EMTs in every state have the same modern education and training

Advanced-EMT

The newly recognized “mid-level” provider certification; this replaces the EMT-I (and others nationwide).

National EMS Certification

The National Registry of EMTs has been recognized by numerous federal, state and private entities as the nation’s EMS certification standard.

Mark King Initiative

A one-time program from the NREMT for MA EMTs who have let their NREMT certification lapse reinstate it. To qualify they must have maintained their state certification (same level) in without restrictions.

National Continued Competency Program (NCCP)

A pilot program for modern EMS continuing education; it eliminates the often stagnant refresher and offers a more flexible infrastructure to ensure the current needs of the national and local EMS systems are being met.

Continuing Education: Agency Affiliation

The primary EMS agency where you work. This would be either an ambulance service or a first responder agency.

Continuing Education: Training Officer

Your agency’s recertification liaison & auditor.

Continuing Education: Medical Director (ALS only)

Your agency’s physician oversight.



MASSACHUSETTS EMT-BASIC (WITHOUT NREMT CERTIFICATION)

continuing education

EXPIRATION IN 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. OLD MA STANDARD
 - 24 hr BLS refresher
 - 28 hrs continuing education
- b. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ¹
 - 20 hrs national (BLS) credits
 - 10 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 10 hrs individual credits
- c. RECERTIFY BY WRITTEN EXAM ²

EXPIRATION AFTER 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ¹
 - 20 hrs national (BLS) credits
 - 10 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 10 hrs individual credits
- b. RECERTIFY BY WRITTEN EXAM ²

1. Only 1/3 of all credits can be non-interactive online credits. There are no limits to interactive online credits. The NCCP satisfies the Scope of Practice transition requirements for EMT-Basics to EMT. Visit <http://mass.gov/dph/oems> for more info on the NCCP.

2. Please contact OEMS for more information on recertifying based on a Cognitive Assessment (written exam) after October 1 the year before you expire.

recertification

2 STEPS TO RECERTIFY IN MA

1. MASSEMT.ORG CON-ED PORTAL

- a. Set up a profile at MASSEMT.org ³ and enter all continuing education credits. ⁴
- b. Follow the directions on the MASSEMT.org website for submitting your continuing education after **OCTOBER 1**. Be sure to do this **before FEBRUARY 15** to ensure you receive your MA certification by **APRIL 1**.

2. MASSACHUSETTS E-LICENSING ⁵

- a. After **DECEMBER 15** log onto the new OEMS e-licensing website (link will be available at www.mass.gov/dph/oems). Follow the prompts to submit demographics, attestations and payment (credit/debit cards accepted).
- b. Submit your application by **MARCH 1** to ensure you have your MA card by **APRIL 1**.

3. See page 18 for more information on this new website.

4. For credits completed prior to July 1, 2013 please visit the former Con-Ed website at <http://dlb.state.ma.us/dph/oems/default.asp> and transcribe them over as appropriate. Credits can be uploaded anytime.

5. If you are unable to complete an application online, paper versions will be available on the OEMS website after October 1.

scope of practice

WHY?

Prior to this initiative there were dozens of different EMS certification levels across the country; in many cases the same title meant very different skill sets and training requirements. In an effort to standardize all EMS certifications there is a national initiative to update all providers to the most modern standard.

HOW?

At the EMT-Basic level your transition course will be met after you complete your first recertification cycle under the new NCCP. There will be no additional courses or requirements. Just complete the national component of the NCCP... which counts towards your recertification! To complete the national component of the NCCP please contact your training officer or a local training institute. The national component of the NCCP is only 20 hours long. Remember, this will count to your recertification.

WHEN?

EMT-Basics will need to transition to "EMT" by 3/31/16.

6. Please note, this transition course is in no way associated with the National Registry of EMTs. Completing this transition process does not result in a NREMT certification. The only way to obtain National EMS Certification is to successfully complete the exam process. Please see page 19 for more details if you are interested in obtaining NREMT certification.

MASSACHUSETTS EMT-INTERMEDIATE (WITHOUT NREMT CERTIFICATION)

continuing education

EXPIRATION IN 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. OLD MA STANDARD
 - 24 hr BLS refresher & 10 hr ILS refresher
 - 28 hrs continuing education
- b. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ¹
 - 25 hrs national credits (20 BLS & 5 ALS)
 - 12.5 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 12.5 hrs individual credits
- c. TRANSITION TO ADVANCED-EMT ²

EXPIRATION AFTER 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ¹
 - 25 hrs national credits (20 BLS & 5 ALS)
 - 12.5 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 12.5 hrs individual credits
- b. TRANSITION TO ADVANCED-EMT ²

1. Only 1/3 of all credits can be non-interactive online credits. There are no limits to interactive online credits. Visit <http://mass.gov/dph/oems> for more info on the NCCP.

2. Please see "Scope of Practice" on this page for information on transitioning to Advanced-EMT.

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WHEN?

EMT-Intermediates will need to transition to "Advanced-EMT" during your next full recertification cycle (either 03/31/16 or 03/31/2017).

6. For more information on this process please contact OEMS at 617.753.7300.

MASSACHUSETTS EMT-PARAMEDIC (WITHOUT NREMT CERTIFICATION)

continuing education

EXPIRATION IN 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. OLD MA STANDARD
 - 48 hr ALS refresher
 - 25 hrs continuing education
- b. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ¹
 - 30 hrs national (ALS) credits
 - 15 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 15 hrs individual credits
- c. RECERTIFY BY WRITTEN EXAM ²

EXPIRATION AFTER 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ¹
 - 30 hrs national (ALS) credits
 - 15 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 15 hrs individual credits
- b. RECERTIFY BY WRITTEN EXAM ²

1. Only 1/3 of all credits can be non-interactive online credits. There are no limits to interactive online credits. Visit <http://mass.gov/dph/oems> for more info on the NCCP.

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At the EMT-Paramedic level you will need to complete an OEMS approved bridge course to meet the transition requirements. ⁶ The bridge course takes approximately 20 hours and will count as continuing education credits.

WHEN?

EMT-Paramedics will need to transition to “paramedic” during your next full recertification cycle (either 03/31/16 or 03/31/2017).

6. Please note, this transition course is in no way associated with the National Registry of EMTs. Completing this transition process does not result in a NREMT certification. The only way to obtain National EMS Certification is to successfully complete the exam process. Please see page 19 for more details if you are interested in obtaining NREMT certification.

MASSACHUSETTS EMT-BASIC (WITH NREMT CERTIFICATION)

continuing education

EXPIRATION IN 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. OLD MA STANDARD ¹
 - 24 hr BLS refresher
 - 28 hrs continuing education
- b. TRADITIONAL NREMT STANDARD
 - 48 hr BLS refresher
 - 24 hrs continuing education
- c. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ²
 - 20 hrs national (BLS) credits
 - 10 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 10 hrs individual credits
- d. RECERTIFY BY NREMT WRITTEN EXAM ³

EXPIRATION AFTER 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ²
 - 20 hrs national (BLS) credits
 - 10 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 10 hrs individual credits
- b. RECERTIFY BY NREMT WRITTEN EXAM ³

1. Completing the old-MA standard will only satisfy MA requirements; if you hold NREMT certification you will still need to meet NREMT requirements.
2. Only 1/3 of all credits can be non-interactive online credits. There are no limits to interactive online credits. The NCCP satisfies the Scope of Practice transition requirements for EMT-Basics to EMT. Visit <http://mass.gov/dph/oems> for more info on the NCCP.
3. Please contact the NREMT for more information on recertifying based on a Cognitive (written) exam after October 1 the year before you expire.

recertification

2 STEPS TO RECERTIFY IN MA

1. NREMT CON-ED PORTAL

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- b. Enter all continuing education credits not already listed on your profile. ⁴
- c. Follow the directions on the NREMT.org website for submitting your continuing education after **OCTOBER 1**. Be sure to do this before **FEBRUARY 15** to ensure you receive your MA certification by **APRIL 1**.

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WHEN?

EMT-Basics will need to transition to "EMT" by 03/31/16.

6. If you obtained your National EMS certification after 01/01/2012, you do not need to complete this transition. Please check your NREMT card; if it reads "EMT" you have already met the new standards; if it reads "EMT-BASIC" you will need to transition.

MASSACHUSETTS EMT-INTERMEDIATE (WITH NREMT CERTIFICATION)

continuing education

EXPIRATION IN 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. OLD MA STANDARD ¹
 - 24 hr BLS refresher & 10hr ILS refresher
 - 28 hrs continuing education
- b. TRADITIONAL NREMT STANDARD
 - 36 hr ILS refresher
 - 36 hrs continuing education
- c. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ²
 - 25 hrs national credits (20 BLS & 5 ALS)
 - 12.5 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 12.5 hrs individual credits
- d. TRANSITION TO ADVANCED-EMT ³

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Complete one of the following:

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MASSACHUSETTS EMT-PARAMEDIC (WITH NREMT CERTIFICATION)

continuing education

EXPIRATION IN 2014

Complete one of the following:

- a. OLD MA STANDARD ¹
 - 48 hr ALS refresher
 - 25 hrs continuing education
- b. TRADITIONAL NREMT STANDARD
 - 48 hr ALS refresher
 - 24 hrs continuing education
- c. NATIONAL CONTINUED COMPETENCY PROGRAM ²
 - 30 hrs national (ALS) credits
 - 15 hrs local (state/region/service) credits
 - 15 hrs individual credits
- d. RECERTIFY BY NREMT WRITTEN EXAM ³

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recertification

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HOW?

At the EMT-Paramedic level you will need to complete an OEMS approved bridge course to meet the transition requirements. ⁶ The bridge course takes approximately 20 hours and will count as continuing education credits.

WHEN?

EMT-Paramedics will need to transition to "Paramedic" during your next full recertification cycle (either 03/31/16 or 03/31/2017).

6. If you obtained your National EMS certification after 01/01/2013, you do not need to complete this transition. Please check your NREMT card; if it reads "PARAMEDIC" you have already met the new standards; if it reads "EMT-PARAMEDIC" you will need to transition.

frequently asked questions



continuing education

Q. What's the difference between interactive online training ("Live") and non-interactive online training?

A. Interactive online training means that the student has the ability to ask questions during the program; it is not capped. Non-interactive online training is training with no human interaction; 1/3 of your overall credits can be non-interactive.

Q. I want take courses under the new recertification standard (the NCCP); what do I need to do?

A. Contact your training officer or local training institute; many of the credits can be completed in one class.

Q. I'm an instructor; do I still get credit for teaching under the NCCP?

A. Yes; so long as you teach the entire program you will receive full credit. Instructor credit is not capped under the NCCP.

Q. I'm a paramedic student; if I've finished my classroom portion do I still get BLS recertification credit under the NCCP?

A. Yes; any education received during your recertification cycle can be applied through the appropriate NCCP requirements.

Q. Do we still submit for continuing education course numbers?

A. Yes; training officers should follow the same process as before for submitting to their EMS region or CECBEMS for course approval. Online credits will be approved through either the OEMS or CECBEMS.

Q. Do we submit rosters to OEMS anymore?

A. No; intra-agency trainings will be electronically documented by your training officer. For courses done outside their agency, individual EMTs will receive a course completion certification and electronically document course credit to their profile (verified by their Training Officer).

recertification

Q. Why do I need to transfer my credits to the new website if OEMS already has them listed on the old system?

A. Not all MA EMTs have Social Security numbers; as such there is no definitive way to match education records. While transcribing the credits may seem tedious, in practice it's a very easy process and requires just a few minutes. The benefit is that you will see exactly how many credits you have!

Q. I've already completed a lot of my recertification process; will it count?

A. Yes; EMTs expiring in 2014 can recertify under the old MA standards. OEMS will be releasing guides for "translating credits" into the new NCCP for EMTs expiring in 2015.

Q. What if my MA certification expires 2014 but my NREMT certification expires 2015?

A. Your 2014 MA certification will be extended to 2015 at a pro-rated rate.

Q. What if my MA certification expires 2014 but my NREMT certification expires 2016?

A. You will still need to recertify your MA certification in 2014.

Q. What if my MA certification expires 2015 but my NREMT certification expires 2014?

A. Your 2015 MA certification will be extended to 2016 at a pro-rated rate.

Q. What is the Mark King Initiative and am I eligible?

A. The MKI is a program for reinstating your NREMT certification if you have let it lapse. You must have maintained your MA certification without restrictions. If you believe you are eligible but have not been notified yet, please contact OEMS.

scope of practice

Q. I'm already an EMT in Massachusetts; why do I need to take a transition course?

A. It's a national effort to ensure that patients in any one state receive the same high level of assessment and care. This is simply a formal update to your skills set.

Q. Are you requiring this in addition to my normal continuing education requirements?

A. No; your transition course will count as continuing education credits; OEMS will be releasing a guide of how to "translate" these hours.

affiliation

Q. What if I'm not affiliated with an agency?

A. You will affiliate with your Regional EMS office as an "unaffiliated EMT." The State EMS Office will act as your training officer and audit your records prior to recertifying.

Q. What if I'm affiliated with more than one agency?

A. You can only affiliate with one agency; select the service you complete the majority of your primary training with and ensure that you training record reflects all of your training.

online continuing education portal

All continuing education will now be managed by the individual EMT in conjunction with their agency's Training Officer (and Medical Director at the ALS level). EMTs will be responsible for ensuring that all of their information is up to date and that all credits are reflected. Through this new process EMTs will have more control over their continuing education process.

MASSACHUSETTS EMT (WITHOUT NREMT)

Portal website: MASSEMT.org
Tech. assistance: 614.888.4484
User account: Created on first login

MASSACHUSETTS EMT (WITH NREMT)

Portal website: NREMT.org
Tech. assistance: 614.888.4484
User account: Created during your NREMT certification process

There are two options to enter continuing education credits in the new system (regardless of which portal you use):

Affiliated Agency Training Officer

- Perfect for any in-house group trainings
- Training Officer can easily enter the class information and select all of their affiliated EMTs who attended

Individual EMT

- Meant for any training done outside of their affiliated agency
- The EMT will receive a course completion certificate at the end of the course; they will then enter it into their profile individually and their affiliated agency's Training Officer will verify the course completion.

obtaining national ems certification

As of July 1st, 2013 all candidates applying for initial certification in Massachusetts must hold National EMS certification. Any EMTs who currently hold MA certification and not National EMS certification have the option of maintaining only their MA certification. Currently certified Massachusetts EMTs will not be required to seek NREMT certification; however, they will not be "grandfathered" into the NREMT. The only way to obtain National EMS certification is to successfully complete the exam process. Contact the NREMT with any questions.

EMT-Basics would need to complete:

- 24 hrs of BLS specific CE credits or refresher
- a practical skills verification session ¹
- an NREMT cognitive (written) EMT exam

EMT-Intermediates are no longer eligible for new NREMT certification at the EMT-I level; to be eligible for national certification testing an EMT-Intermediate would have to first complete a transition course to the AEMT level.

EMT-Paramedics would need to complete:

- 48 hrs of ALS continuing education
- an NREMT practical paramedic exam
- an NREMT cognitive (written) paramedic exam

1. Contact your local training center to complete a practical skills verification session.





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617.753.7300 (o)
www.mass.gov/dph/oems