

August 2015

I hope everyone is doing well and/or recovering from the past several weeks of what seemed like continuous rain. Even during such difficult times, EMS is out there providing services, agency helping agency, doing what is needed to take care of our patients and communities. Thank you for doing such a great job!

NEMSIS v3 is moving along. We continue to work with vendors and the EMS Performance Improvement Center at UNC on this project.

Please remember to keep your CIS profile and password current. Without a current address/email, you will not get information that is sent out from OEMS related to policy changes, updates, etc.

I would like to ask testing sites to keep the following in mind:

- Testing needs to start on time
- Practicals need to be completed before the test
- Please limit the number of tester (re-testers) so as not to create overcrowding
- Cell phones will not be permitted during testing. If students do not leave cell phones in their vehicles, they will be asked to turn cell phones off and leave them in the center of the table.

Recertification time is getting close, so just want to remind everyone that the new policies do not go into effect until 1/1/16. Your recertification will be based on current policies. Also, please remember this also includes the pass/fail score of 70 for EMT testing. Below is the recertification section from 64CSR48. Remember that the deadline for submission of application packets is 90 days prior to your expiration date. For those expiring 12/31/15, this will be September 30, 2015.

64CSR48

6.4. Recertification Requirements. An applicant for Emergency Medical Vehicle Operator, Emergency Medical Dispatcher, Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Care Technician, Paramedic, Mobile Critical Care Paramedic or Mobile Critical Care Nurse recertification shall:

6.4.a. Apply for recertification during the last year of his or her certification period, but no later than ninety (90) days prior to the end of the applicant's certification period;

6.4.b. Apply in a format prescribed by the Commissioner;

6.4.c. Submit the appropriate fees as described in subsection 6.9. of this rule;

6.4.d. Continuously meet all requirements for EMS personnel as described in this rule;

6.4.e. Disclose any limitations or exclusions by an EMS agency, EMS Medical Director or any other healthcare profession certification or licensing authority in any state. The limitations or exclusions may be considered by the Commissioner prior to issuance of recertification in West Virginia;

6.4.f. Possess valid CPR certification prescribed by the Commissioner;

6.4.g. Complete refresher and continuing medical education prescribed by the Commissioner appropriate for the level of certification;

6.4.h. Demonstrate continued competency via one of the following methods:

6.4.h.1. The applicant shall maintain continuous National Registry certification, if applicable, or

6.4.h.2. Successfully complete any state cognitive and skills examinations prescribed by the Commissioner appropriate for the level of certification; and 6.4.i. Meet other requirements established by the Commissioner.

The Medical Policy and Care Committee recently formalized the Protocol Review Process. Proposed revisions to the Protocols will be reviewed between January and August of each year. The Protocols will be reviewed by the MPCC during the October meeting. The recommendations will be formalized and a roll-out will be performed during the following November and December. Example: The 2015 protocols are currently being reviewed for potential changes. Those changes will be finalized in October of 2015. This will be followed by an educational session (roll-out), and those changes will become effective in January 2016. This will occur annually.