

North Dakota Department of Health
Division of EMS and Trauma
National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)
Continued Competency Recertification Project
May 2013

On April 1, 2013 the Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma (DEMST) entered into a pilot project with the National Registry of EMT's (NREMT). This project changes the method and requirements of recertification of Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT) and Paramedics. Along with the NREMT, DEMST feels the new requirements and process is a more efficient and effective way for a EMS providers to remain competent in required skills and knowledge while promoting lifelong learning. This new model will also make it more convenient to meet the continuing education needs of the EMS provider.

Traditionally an EMS provider was required to attend an approved refresher course along with completing a specified amount of continuing education during each two-year certification period. This education was based on the curriculum that was developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and did not always keep up with changing treatment regimes that modern medicine demands. In the new recertification model modern practices are incorporated into hours required by the NREMT allowing the provider to maintain awareness of modern medicine. The new model also lowers the amount of required hours and makes these hours more specific to the provider's educational needs and requires no specific refresher course. For example, traditionally at the EMT level a provider was required to attend 72 hours (24-hour refresher plus 48 hours of continuing education) every two years and with the new model the EMT is required to have a total of 40 hours for recertification.

The new recertification model consists of three components:

1. **National Continued Competency Requirements (NCCR).** This education requirement is determined by the NREMT and accounts for 50 percent of the required educational hours. The topic and amount of each subject may change slightly over a period of time to keep pace with changes in modern medical practices.
2. **Local Continued Competency Requirements (LCCR).** This education requirement is determined by each individual state or service area and accounts for 25 percent of the required hours. The subject material may be determined by the medical director or squad leader to meet the needs of the quick response unit or ambulance service.
3. **Individual Continued Competency Requirements (ICCR).** This educational requirement will be determined by the individual based on the needs determined by completing the assessment at the time of recertification and accounts for 25 percent of the required hours. These hours will allow each EMS provider to personalize their education to strengthen the knowledge and/or confidence level in areas of weakness.

The assessment is not used to determine provider eligibility for recertification, but completion of the assessment is required by each provider in order to complete the recertification process. This assessment will be used only as a tool to determine areas of weakness in order to give the provider direction in obtaining the needed education for the following recertification period (ICCR). The assessment will be available to the recertifying provider online at no cost in October of the year proceeding the recertification date. For example a provider expiring on March 31,

2015 will be able to access the assessment online from any computer beginning October 1, 2014.

The table below gives the required amount of NCCR, LCCR and ICCR hours required for each level.

Provider Level	National Requirements (NCCR)	Local Requirements (LCCR)	Individual Requirements (ICCR)	Total Hours
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	8	4	4	16
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	20	10	10	40
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)	25	12.5	12.5	50
Paramedic	30	15	15	60

All hours will need to be documented on the NREMT website and submitted electronically. The paper form used in past for NREMT recertification will not be accepted for this new model. In order to participate in the pilot project a provider must be affiliated with a licensed agency within the state of North Dakota and have an account on the NREMT website. In order to obtain an account on the NREMT website please go to www.nremt.org and follow the on-screen instructions.

Those providers that are state certified and not nationally registered will need to complete the same requirements but will not submit to the NREMT for processing. DEMST will provide a recertification form which will be located on the website: www.ndhealth.gov/ems .

In future Response Times articles I will explain various specifics of this new recertification model in more detail and discuss how it will affect the provider. If you have specific questions you want addressed, please let me know.

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