

June 20, 2012

## **Transitioning to the National Education Standards Frequently Asked Questions and Guidance Document**

This document is designed to answer some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding the implementation of the National Education Standards in the State of New York. This document will be updated from time-to-time to reflect changes and more frequent FAQs.

### **1) Why are we moving to the National Education Standards?**

The State Emergency Medical Services Council has required that NYS implement the National Education Standards, which are based on the National Scope of Practice. This will align NYS with most other states in the country.

### **2) How will the new Standards affect our current certification levels?**

The national EMR will be the new NYS CFR, with some additional training for NYS.

The national EMT will be the new NYS EMT, with some additional training for NYS.

The national AEMT will replace the current NYS Intermediate level.

The NYS Critical Care will not change except for the EMT portion.

The national Paramedic will be the new NYS Paramedic.

### **3) When will the Standards take effect?**

All CFR and EMT courses testing on or after December 2012, will be testing to the new Standards.

All certified CFR and EMT providers must be certified under the new Standards by June 30, 2014.

All AEMT and Paramedic courses testing on or after May 2013, will be testing to the new EMT and ALS Standards.

All currently certified Intermediates and Paramedics must be certified under the new Standards by June 30, 2015.

All Critical Care courses testing on or after May 2013 will be testing to the EMT Standards.

All currently certified Critical Care providers must be certified under the new EMT Standards by June 30, 2015.

**4) Will the new Standards add more hours to the course?**

The National Association of State EMS Officials has provided estimated hours for each course. These are estimations only and may be different depending on your student's needs and how you develop your courses locally.

CFR: 48 – 60 hours  
EMT: 150 – 190 hours  
AEMT: 150 – 250 hours  
Paramedic 1000 – 1300 hours

The Bureau of EMS will not be approving course applications and course schedules based on the total number of hours for your course. Rather, we will be reviewing your course schedules for essential content.

**5) Will I be able to still complete the challenge portion of my refresher course?**

All currently certified providers can challenge out of the content that has not changed, but must take those sessions of the course, which cover the new material.

**6) Can I take an ALS Rapid Refresher Course?**

Prior to May of 2013, yes. However, if you don't plan on recertifying through the CME program, you will need to attend a traditional refresher course (with challenge component) and take the NYS Written Certification Examination by June of 2015. This is for all AEMT/Intermediate, Critical Care and Paramedic level providers.

**7) I'm enrolled in the CME Refresher Program. Can I still refresh through the CME program or do I have to take a refresher course?**

You will still be able to refresh through the CME program as long as you have had the new material by the deadlines listed above for each level of certification.

If you have already completed CME hours under the current curriculum, you can still use those hours towards your recertification. However, you will be required to submit a "supplement" CME form that contains the required hours for the new material. This supplement form will be available on our web site and must be

submitted with your current CME recertification form. You still must complete all of the required EMT-B core content hours on the CME recert form as well as the additional hours from the supplemental form.

If you have not already completed CME hours towards your recertification, you must use the new CME recertification forms that meet the new Standards. The supplement form does not need to be submitted if you are using the new recertification forms that meet the new Standards.

**8) Where is the NYS curriculum??**

The move nationally to the National Education Standards replaces the previous curricula style that you are used to. You will not have a “curriculum” to follow. Instead you will have the National Education Standards, National Instructor Guidelines, and other NYS documents to use to develop your courses locally. All of these documents will be available on our web site.

**9) Will the Final Practical Skills Exam change?**

Yes. Most of the changes, except for AEMT/Intermediate, will be minor and the Bureau is in the process of changing these to meet the new Standards.

**10) Will the BLS protocols change?**

Yes. However, this requires formal recommendation from the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee and the State Emergency Medical Services Council. When the update protocols are approved and updated, we will post them to our web site.

**11) Will there be an increase in state reimbursement?**

The Bureau is working on plans to realign the reimbursements for courses. However, there are restrictions in law that will affect this. There has also been no increase in legislative approved funds to accommodate the budgetary needs of course sponsors.

**12) How will instructors know what content they will be required to teach in NYS for refresher courses?**

The Bureau is providing copies of several guidance documents to assist instructors. The Educational Standards Template from NASEMSO is provided. These documents for each level have been modified to include those “Essential” and “Supplemental” content areas that are required in NYS.

We are also providing copies of the Instructor Guidelines with yellow highlighted areas that will be the NYS required content for refresher courses.

There is a document reflecting an overall look at each certification level and the skills within their respective scopes of practice. This is not intended to be an all encompassing document, but a minimum guide for you to better understand the changes at each level of certification.

Instructors will use textbooks and ancillary supporting materials from their publishers to prepare their local curriculum and courses that will fit the needs of their student population and meeting the minimum NYS requirements.

Instructors need to be cautious with any material from textbook publishers and assure that all content is accurate and meets the minimum requirements for NYS. For example, testing banks from publishers have historically been found to have wrong answers, misspellings, etc. Each instructor is responsible to assure that this material is accurate.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Johnson  
Director of Education and Certification  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services