**Government of the District of Columbia**

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| *Department:* | ***Department of Health*** |
| *Administration:* | ***Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration*** |
| *Section:* | ***Emergency Medical Services*** |
| *Policy Name:* | ***EMS National Education Standards Transition Procedures*** |
| *Policy Number:* | ***2011-0016*** |
| *Effective Date:* | ***01 August 2011*** |
| *Approved By:* | ***Beverly Pritchett, Senior Deputy Director, HEPRA*** |
| *Applies To:* | ***EMS Educational Institutions & Instructors*** |
| *Purpose:* | ***Define Procedures to be used During Transition to NES*** |
| *Reference:* | ***Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008, Section 8***<br>***Policy 2010-0011 "EMS Educational Institution Standards"***<br>***Policy 2011-0015 "EMS Curriculum and Course Standards"***<br>***NREMT Transition Policy*** |
| *Revision:* | ***Original*** |

## Introduction

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) within the US Department of Transportation (DOT) establishes the national training standards for EMS providers. The latest version of these standards was published in January of 2009 as the National EMS Education Standards (NES). These standards can be adopted by each state, with each state defining the rules and regulations to enforce the training and testing standards adopted by the state. These standards replace the current National Standard Curriculum (NSC).

The District has adopted the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as our testing and certification standard. As such, the District will adopt the NES in accordance to the timetable as published by the NREMT for transitioning from the NSC to the NES.

*Two Transitions*

There are two types of transitions occurring simultaneously as we move to the new NES. The first transition impacts the new student attending an initial certification course. The second transition affects the EMS provider that is currently certified and must be brought up to the new standards. As the District utilizes the NREMT as our testing and certification authority, there are certain standards that need to be implemented during this transition period. In this policy each type of transition and what must be accomplished to insure that the providers obtain and maintain their EMS certifications will be reviewed. In addition, the new requirements EMS educational institutions must comply with as part of the new education transition standards is explained.

## New EMS Certifications

The first transition is the provider who is seeking a new certification. The District transition to the new standard is guided by the NREMT testing schedule (see appendix A). In order to properly prepare the student for the exam, the educational institution must be instructing according to the proper education standard.

### *Emergency Medical Responder Certification*

The EMR certification was previously referred to as the First Responder certification. The District has not recognized this certification until recently, and we are not aware of any educational institution that is using the First Responder NSC. The NREMT will begin administering the EMR test on 01 January 2012. Any EMS educational institution that desires to instruct an EMR course that will test after 01 January 2012 will need to submit an EMR certification curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015.

### *Emergency Medical Technician Certification*

The EMT certification was previously referred to as the EMT-Basic certification. This has been the majority of District certification courses and every educational institution is currently using the EMT-Basic NSC. The NREMT will begin administering the new EMT test on 01 January 2012. If students will be testing prior to 01 January 2012, continue to use the EMT-B NSC. Any EMS educational institution that desires to instruct an EMT course that will test after 01 January 2012 will need to submit an EMT certification curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015.

### *Advanced EMT Certification*

As the Advanced EMT is a new certification, there is currently no NSC for that course. The NREMT began administering the AEMT exam on 01 June 2011. Any EMS educational institution that desires to instruct an AEMT course will need to submit an AEMT certification curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015.

### *Paramedic Certification*

The Paramedic certification was previously referred to as the EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P) certification. The NREMT will begin administering the Paramedic test on 01 January 2013. Students that will be testing prior to 01 January 2013 should continue to use the EMT-P NSC. Any EMS educational institution that desires to instruct a Paramedic course that will test after 01 January 2013 will need to be accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). They will also need to submit a Paramedic certification curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015.

## Currently Certified EMS Providers

The second transition affects those providers who are currently certified. These providers will need to be brought up to date with the new standards outlined in the National Education Standards. For the majority of the providers, the transition will be included as part of their refresher course. The District transition to the new standard is guided by the NREMT transition schedule (see appendix B).

### *Currently Certified as a First Responder*

The District has not recognized this certification until recently, and we are not aware of any organization that currently have any providers certified at the First Responder level. However, should a student be certified at the first responder level prior to 31 December 2011, they will be required to attend a transition course. Providers at the First Responder level with an NREMT expiration date of 30 September 2011 must complete the transition course by 30 September 2015. Providers with an NREMT expiration date of 30 September 2012 must complete the transition course by 30 September 2016. Upon completing the transition course, the provider will be certified as an Emergency Medical Responder.

Educational institutions that desire to instruct an EMR transition course after 01 January 2012 will need to submit an EMR transition curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015. It is important that the certificate of completion issued to the provider be clearly marked as "[Student Name] has completed a District of Columbia approved First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder transition course." *If this is not marked on the completion certification, the NREMT will not credit the provider as attending a transition course and their certification status will not be updated.*

### *Currently Certified as an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic*

This has been the majority of District certification courses and all currently certified District EMT-B providers have been certified using the EMT-Basic NSC. Further, any students who take the EMT test prior 01 January 2012 will also be certified using the NSC. All of these providers will be required to attend a transition course. Providers at the EMT-B level with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2011 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2015. Providers with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2012 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2016. Upon completing the transition course, the provider will be certified as an Emergency Medical Technician.

Educational institutions that desire to instruct an EMT transition course after 01 January 2012 will need to submit an EMT transition curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015. It is important that the certificate of completion issued to the provider be clearly marked as "[Student Name] has completed a District of Columbia approved EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician transition course." *If this is not marked on the completion certification, the NREMT will not credit the provider as attending a transition course and their certification status will not be updated.*

***Currently Certified as an Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate 85 (I-85)***
The District does not recognize the I-85 as a separate certification level. Further, the District will not approve an I-85 certification course (educational institutions will instead be directed to submit a curriculum for an AEMT certification course).

***Currently Certified as an Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate 99 (I-99)***
There are a number of providers currently certified in the District as EMT-I providers that have been certified using I-99 NSC. Further, any students who take the I-99 test prior 31 December 2013 will also be certified using the NSC. All of these providers will be required to attend a transition course. Providers at the I-99 level with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2011 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2017. Providers with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2012 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2018. Providers with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2013 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2019. Upon completing the transition course, the provider must take the paramedic cognitive exam. Upon passing they will be certified as a Paramedic.

Educational institutions that desire to instruct an I-99 transition course will need to submit an I-99 transition curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015. The educational institution does not need to be accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions to teach the transition course to paramedic. It is important that the certificate of completion issued to the provider be clearly marked as "[Student Name] has completed a District of Columbia approved EMT-I99 to Paramedic transition course." *If this is not marked on the completion certification, the NREMT will not credit the provider as attending a transition course and they will not be eligible to challenge the paramedic cognitive exam.*

***Currently Certified as an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic***

There are a number of providers currently certified in the District as EMT-Paramedic providers that have been certified using the NSC. Further, any students who take the EMT-P test prior 31 December 2012 will also be certified using the NSC. All of these providers will be required to attend a transition course. Providers at the EMT-Paramedic level with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2011 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2015. Providers with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2012 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2016. Providers with an NREMT expiration date of 31 March 2013 must complete the transition course by 31 March 2017. Upon completing the transition course, the provider will be certified as a Paramedic.

Educational institutions that desire to instruct a Paramedic transition course will need to submit a Paramedic transition curriculum to DOH for review and approval in accordance with DC DOH-EMS Policy 2011-0015. It is important that the certificate of completion issued to the provider be plainly marked as "[Student Name] has completed a District of Columbia approved EMT-P to Paramedic transition course" *If this is not marked on the completion certification, the NREMT will not credit the provider as attending a transition course and their certification status will not be updated.*

## Currently Certified EMS Providers who do Not Attend a Transition Course

Nationally Certified EMS providers who submit an acceptable recertification application to the NREMT but do not include a successful completion of a state-approved transition course certificate by the deadline for their provider level, will be issued a NREMT EMS Certification at the next lower level (i.e. EMT-Basic will receive EMR; Intermediate/99 will receive AEMT; Paramedic will receive AEMT. First Responders will lose their certification). When applying for District certification, the provider will be issued a DC certification equivalent to their current NREMT certification.

## Appendix A – NREMT Testing Schedule

| Certification Level | Last NREMT certification exam given | When do new/updated NREMT exams start? |
|---|---|---|
| **First Responder** | 31 December, 2011 | |
| **Emergency Medical Responder** | | 01 January 2012 |
| **EMT-Basic** | 31 December 2011 | |
| **Emergency Medical Technician** | | 01 January 2012 |
| **EMT I-85** | 31 March 2013 | |
| **Advanced Emergency Medical Technician** | | 01 June 2011 |
| **EMT I-99** | December 31, 2013 | |
| **Emergency Medical Technician -Paramedic** | December 31, 2012 | |
| **Paramedic** | | 01 January 2013 |

## Appendix B – NREMT Transition Schedule

| Certification Level Expiration Date | Transition to be Completed by |
|---|---|
| **First Responder** | |
| *Expires 9/30/2011* | 30 September 2015 |
| *Expires 9/30/2012* | 30 September 2016 |
| **EMT-Basic** | |
| *Expires 3/31/2011* | 31 March 2015 |
| *Expires 3/31/2012* | 31 March 2016 |
| **I-99** | (Test paramedic cognitive exam) |
| *Expires 3/31/2011* | 31 March 2017 |
| *Expires 3/31/2012* | 31 March 2018 |
| *Expires 3/31/2013* | 31 March 2019 |
| **EMT-P** | |
| *Expires 3/31/2011* | 31 March 2015 |
| *Expires 3/31/2012* | 31 March 2016 |
| *Expires 3/31/2013* | 31 March 2017 |