



# Policy Statement

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Guidance for EMS Education Courses

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide interim guidance for the continuation of EMS education courses in New York State with a focus on necessary precautions to help protect against the spread of COVID-19.

### II. CERTIFICATION & COURSE SPONSORS

Pursuant to Executive Order Number 202.10, issued on March 7, 2020, the following provisions were applied:

#### A. UPDATE: Course Sponsor Agreements

NEW: Course sponsor agreements that were due to expire in June 2020 and were extended until April 2021 are now extended to October 2021.

Course sponsor agreements that are due to expire in June 2021 are now extended to December 2021.

#### B. UPDATE: Certification Verification

NEW: Providers who have become certified or re-certified since February and have not received their new certification card may use their PSI scoring sheet or their expired EMS provider certification ALONG WITH a copy of their current active status listed on the HCS system.

New provider cards are being printed within 1 month after the student has tested and successfully passed the state examination process. If you have not received your card AND you are a new provider AND it has been 2 months since the student has passed the exam, please complete a DOH-4453 form and submit it via e-mail or complete the request at the link below:

[NYS DOH Form-4453 Duplicate Card Request Submission | Survey Builder](#)

#### C. ACLS & PALS

NEW: The Bureau will now accept Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS) certification from the American Heart Association (AHA) or the American Red Cross (ARC) permitting they have a in person assessment in order to achieve certification.

## D. Reciprocity

NEW: All Paramedic reciprocity applicants must submit ACLS, PALS and CPR certification cards with their reciprocity paperwork.

NEW: Until further notice, providers seeking reciprocity do not need to have completed a PSE and written exam in the past 18 months. Providers for reciprocity must demonstrate they have completed an approved state/national refresher program, have a current state or national certification and has had skills verified by an agency medical director, training officer or similar qualification within past 36-month period.

NEW: Applicants no longer need to send the verification of certification in the sealed envelope with the application. Applicants are required to request the home state submit the verification electronically to the NYS Bureau of EMS. If the state has an electronic verification system, the NYS Bureau of EMS may verify this information through the state.

## III. PRACTICAL SKILLS EXAMS

Pursuant to Executive Order Number 202.10, issued on March 7, 2020, the following provisions were applied:

The New York State psychomotor examination shall continue to be administered in accordance with the New York State Practical Skills Administration Manual with the following modifications:

1. Basic Life Support PSE:
  - a. UPDATE: Modification to required practical skills examination stations outlined in Policy Statement 20-07 (Section I.B) shall be utilized for any courses beginning after the release of the new basic life support practical skills evaluations sheets and associated instructions.
2. Paramedic PSE:
  - a. NEW: Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 all original Paramedic Practical Skills Examinations will use the NREMT Paramedic PSE process, scoring and oversight. PSE's will be administered by a State Rep and/or a NREMT exam proctor assigned by the Bureau. All first attempts and re-tests will be required to be as part of an approved NREMT PSE and must have a NREMT exam proctor present assigned by the Bureau. This includes all Paramedic programs regardless if the students are eligible or not to take the NREMT.
    - i. If a PSE site believes they will need more than one day to do initial tests and re-test (for example: re-test the next day or two days later) the PSE site should coordinate this request with Examination & Certification Unit Chief Elizabeth Donnelly at least 30 days prior to the exam. The Bureau of EMS will work to accommodate these requests when scheduling permits. If this is not possible a second PSE exam date would need to be scheduled at a later point in time.
  - b. All re-certification PSE's may use the State or NREMT PSE to re-certify. The Bureau of EMS must be made aware of the PSE, but a proctor may or may not be assigned to the state only PSE exams.

## IV. Initial Paramedic Examination

The NYS Department of Health Bureau of EMS is transitioning during 2021 to require all initial paramedic candidates to take the National Registry of EMTs Paramedic written and practical exam in order to obtain state paramedic certification. Candidates will have the option to take the state written exam or the national written exam during the transition period.

## **V. Paramedic Course Accreditation**

The NYS Department of Health Bureau of EMS is transitioning to requiring in 2022 all New York Paramedic educational programs to be accredited by a Bureau of EMS approved accreditation body.

Current NYS approved national accreditation bodies for Paramedic Educational Programs:

- Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for Emergency Medical Services (CoAMPS)