

1. A person seeking reciprocity shall first obtain the sponsorship of a mobile intensive care hospital and shall then apply jointly, with that sponsoring mobile intensive care hospital, for reciprocity. All requests shall be made in writing, and shall be in a form and manner specified by the Department, including, but not limited to, a listing of all similar valid certifications and demographic and identifying information.

2. Once the completed application has been received, all information has been verified and the Department determines the person is eligible for reciprocity, a provisional EMT-Paramedic certification shall be issued. This provisional certification shall be valid for a one-year period or the duration of the out-of-State certification, whichever is the lesser amount of time.

i. A provisionally certified EMT-Paramedic shall be monitored for performance by the medical director and the Department.

ii. A provisionally certified EMT-Paramedic shall operate only when under the direct supervision of an EMT-Paramedic, registered nurse or physician. Under no circumstances may a provisionally certified EMT-Paramedic act independently or in conjunction with another provisionally certified EMT-Paramedic on the same MICU, SCTU or AMU.

iii. The EMS Educator or the director shall monitor the progress of the provisionally certified EMT-Paramedic, and shall forward to the Department a progress report at the end of the provisional period, or as required by the Department.

iv. The Department shall have the right to restrict or otherwise limit the scope of practice of a provisionally certified EMT-Paramedic. Failure to meet such conditions or any terms of the provisional period shall be deemed cause for refusal to issue certification.

(b) A person who is not certified by the NREMT as an EMT-Paramedic shall sit for the NREMT-Paramedic Certification Examination within six months after the issuance of a provisional certification.

1. A person who has taken and failed the NREMT-Paramedic Certification Examination and whose out-of-State certification has expired may request an extension of his or her provisional certification until the next available NREMT-Paramedic Certification Examination. Only one such extension shall be granted.

(c) A person who is certified as an EMT-Paramedic by the NREMT shall be eligible for certification, after at least six months of provisional certification, upon endorsement of the sponsoring mobile intensive care hospital.

(d) A person who fails to gain certification at the expiration of the provisional certification shall be ineligible for EMT-Paramedic certification unless he or she successfully

completes a continuing education program for persons with expired certifications, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:41A-4.4.

(e) Upon successful completion of the NREMT-Paramedic Certification Examination, or at the end of the provisional period (as applicable), the person shall be issued EMT-Paramedic certification.

(f) The Department shall verify all requests for reciprocity in a timely manner. The Department shall obtain written verification as to the person's status from the certifying agency in the jurisdiction under which he or she is certified.

(g) Persons validly certified as EMT-Paramedics in other jurisdictions shall be eligible for reciprocity, provided the certification period is less than two years from the date it was issued (for example, the certificate is not in the third year of a four-year certification period).

#### 8:41A-4.3 Recertification

(a) The requirements for recertification as an EMT-Paramedic shall be as follows:

1. Possession of EMT-Paramedic, CPR, ACLS and either PALS or PEPP-Advanced certifications;

2. Successful completion of a minimum of 48 hours of advanced level continuing education, as set forth in (a)2i through iii below. The Department may evaluate standard courses (for example, New Jersey State Police HAZMAT courses) and college and professional (for credit) courses to determine applicability to EMT-Paramedic recertification. The Department shall provide information on approvals to interested parties.

i. A minimum of three of the six divisions of the program curriculum. The hours shall have been obtained, at a minimum, in each of divisions two through six of the program curriculum;

ii. A minimum of 36 hours shall cover divisions two through six. No more than 12 hours shall be applied to division one; and

iii. A minimum of eight hours of instruction in Pediatric Advanced Life Support;

3. Demonstration to the medical director of proficiency in all skills approved for pre-hospital care, as specified at N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.1;

i. Proficiency may be demonstrated based on actual observation, field performance, or other methods as deemed necessary by the medical director. The medical director shall complete the forms required by this section and submit them to the Department attesting to the level of proficiency of each EMT-Paramedic seeking recertification. Such forms shall reflect whether the skill level is satisfactory and shall bear the original signature of the medical director. The EMS Educator or director shall keep records to allow the completion

of such forms that may be required for recertification;  
and

4. Endorsement of a mobile intensive care hospital.

i. The EMS Educator or the director shall verify that all requirements for recertification have been met and that the EMT-Paramedic is physically capable of performing his or her duties and shall forward all required documentation to the Department. The EMS Educator or the director shall sign the endorsement.

ii. If a mobile intensive care hospital chooses not to extend its endorsement for recertification of an EMT-Paramedic, the medical director shall notify the Department and the EMT-Paramedic by certified mail at least 60 calendar days prior to the expiration of the certification. Such notification shall include a statement explaining why such action is being taken, and shall include a plan for remediation, if applicable.

(b) A person seeking recertification shall document successful completion of continuing education requirements as set forth in (a)3i through iii above on a form to be submitted to OEMS. These 48 continuing education hours shall be accrued over the 24-month period immediately prior to recertification;

(c) No person shall be recertified until documentation of all of the requirements set forth in (a)1 through 5 above has been provided.

(d) Continuing education credits shall not be carried forward from one recertification period to the next. At the beginning of the next recertification period, the continuing education balance shall be reset to zero credits.

(e) A new certification card shall be furnished free of charge upon recertification. All requests for replacement cards must be submitted in writing and accompanied by a certified bank check (for example, a cashier's check) or money order in the amount of \$5.00, made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Jersey." Requests sent via e-mail, facsimile or without the \$5.00 fee shall not be honored.

(f) EMT-Paramedic recertifications shall be valid through the expiration date listed on the card, but in no event shall they be valid for more than 24 months from the date of issue. No grace periods are allowed, nor shall extensions be granted.

(g) Consistent with N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.3(b), a person denied recertification as an EMT-Paramedic shall be entitled to a hearing at the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law to contest the denial.

(h) A person who has not been able to meet the recertification requirements due to personal illness or injury may be eligible for an extension of his or her EMT-Paramedic certification for a period of up to one year.

1. A person seeking such an extension shall submit a request, in writing, to OEMS. The request shall include:

- i. An explanation of the need for the extension;
- ii. Medical documentation from a licensed physician; and
- iii. A letter of endorsement from the Director.

2. The Department shall advise the person of its decision within 30 calendar days of receipt of the request.

3. The length of the extension shall equal the period of disability, but shall not exceed one year. Only one such extension shall be granted.

#### 8:41A-4.4 Expired certifications

(a) The requirements for certification of a person formerly certified as an EMT-Paramedic who has allowed that certification to expire (that is, a person who, for whatever reason, has not completed the required number of continuing education credits necessary for recertification) shall be as follows:

1. Sponsorship of a mobile intensive care hospital;
2. Possession of EMT-Basic and CPR certifications;
3. Successful completion of the didactic portion of an EMT-Paramedic training program equivalent to the refresher curriculum;
  - i. Prior to the completion of the didactic portion of the program, the person shall complete any other training required to enter the NREMT-Paramedic Certification Examination process, and possess certification in both ACLS and either PALS or PEPP-Advanced, as well as certification in either PHTLS or BTLS;
4. Successful completion of 200 hours of clinical training;
  - i. These hours shall be completed within one year of entering into the program. No hours may be completed until the Department has notified the person that he or she has been admitted into the program;
  - ii. The areas covered by the program shall be determined by the EMS Educator, based on the needs of the person, and shall be scheduled at the discretion of the EMS Educator;
  - iii. During retraining, the person shall have the same status as an EMT-Paramedic student, and shall not act independently to provide advanced life support care;
5. Documentation as required by the NREMT, including but not limited to, certification and medical director endorsement; and
6. Achievement of a passing score on the NREMT-Paramedic Certification Examination.

(b) Upon successful completion of all of the requirements set forth in (a)1 through 6 above, the person shall be issued an EMT-Paramedic certification card, which shall bear the person's previous certification number and that shall be valid for a period of not less than 24, nor more than 30, months.

(c) An EMT-Paramedic whose certification has expired shall retain status as an EMT-Basic for a period of one year from the date of the expiration of his or her EMT-Paramedic certification. A separate EMT-Basic certification card shall not be issued unless specifically requested.

#### 8:41A-4.5 Inactive status

(a) An EMT-Paramedic who chooses not to be actively engaged in the provision of advanced life support care at the time of recertification may request that he or she be placed on inactive status. Educators, administrators or regulators who are not actively treating patients should consider this status.

1. An EMT-Paramedic seeking to be placed on inactive status shall make such a request, in writing, to OEMS.

i. Requests may be made at any time, provided that they are made at least 30 calendar days before a person's certification is due to expire.

2. Upon being placed on inactive status, the person shall be issued an EMT-Paramedic "Inactive Status" certification card that shall bear the person's EMT-Paramedic certification number and shall clearly identify the person as an inactive EMT-Paramedic. The card shall be valid for a period of 24 months.

i. A person on inactive status shall not act in the capacity, or perform the duties, of a certified EMT-Paramedic.

ii. "Inactive Status" cards shall be renewed automatically, unless the person requests to be placed back on active status.

(b) A person seeking to be placed back on active status shall make such a request, in writing, to OEMS.

1. A person shall not be placed back on active status until he or she has met the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:41A-4.3(a).

2. Upon being placed on active status, the person shall be issued an EMT-Paramedic certification card, which shall bear the person's previous certification number and that shall be valid for a period of not less than 24, nor more than 30, months.

### SUBCHAPTER 5. SCOPE OF PRACTICE, ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND HEARINGS

#### 8:41A-5.1 Scope of practice

(a) EMTs-Paramedic shall operate within their approved scope of practice.

(b) The following skills and procedures are within the approved scope of practice for an EMT-Paramedic, an EMT-Paramedic student (provided that the student is under the direct supervision of an EMT-Paramedic, registered nurse or physician) or a provisionally certified EMT-Paramedic (within the limits set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:41A-4.2(a)2):

1. Performance all of the skills and procedures approved for EMTs-Basic, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.1;

2. Performance of history taking and physical examination of patients in order to obtain necessary information to permit the rendering of appropriate medical care;

3. Utilization of telemetry and proper communications procedures in the field, as defined by the Federal Communications Commission and good professional practice;

4. Visualization of the airway by utilization of the laryngoscope and removal of foreign bodies with forceps;

5. Application of electrodes and monitoring of cardiac electrical activity, including electrocardiograms;

6. Utilization of mechanical cardiopulmonary resuscitation devices; and

7. Assessing and managing patients in accordance with the program curriculum.

(c) In addition, with medical command authorization or utilizing the standing orders set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:41-7 and 8, the persons identified in (b) above may:

1. Initiate IV therapy, either by direct infusion, IV catheter plug or other cannulae-IV lines;

2. Perform venipuncture for the purpose of obtaining blood samples for analysis (excluding blood alcohol levels drawn solely for legal purposes);

3. Prepare and administer approved medications and solutions (that is, those set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:41-6.1) by intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intraosseous, oral, sublingual, topical, inhalation, rectal or endotracheal routes;

4. Administer oxygen therapy, including nebulizer treatments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:41-6.1, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, and the provide ventilatory support using approved equipment as specified in N.J.A.C. 8:41;

5. Perform cardiac defibrillation, synchronized cardioversion and transcutaneous cardiac pacing;

6. Perform electrocardiogram monitoring, including taking of 12-lead electrocardiogram tracings;

7. Perform endotracheal intubation (oral and nasal) and nasogastric tube insertion and aspiration;

8. Perform pulmonary ventilation by the utilization of oral, nasal, endotracheal or tracheostomy intubation;
9. Perform intraosseous infusion;
10. Perform needle chest decompression; and
11. Perform Valsalva maneuvers;

(d) In addition to the skills and procedures identified in (b) and (c) above, a program or service's medical director may choose to allow EMTs-Paramedic to perform the following procedures, subject to approval by the Department:

1. The insertion of esophageal airways, laryngeal mask airways or other commercial airways of similar design and function;
2. Access of established central venous catheters and subcutaneous indwelling catheters;
3. Access of AV fistulas or shunts;
4. Percutaneous needle cricothyrotomy; and
5. Rapid sequence induction.

(e) The persons identified in (b) above may perform any of the skills and procedures identified in (b) and (c) above in the emergency department of a mobile intensive care hospital provided that the EMT-Paramedic:

1. Is performing under the direct order of a physician;
2. Records the treatment on the patient's chart and signs the chart in compliance with institutional policy;
3. Is providing medical treatment strictly within the approved scope of practice for an EMT-Paramedic;
4. Is present in the emergency department for the sole purpose of meeting training requirements and maintaining the skills necessary for recertification;
5. Does not perform the duties or fill the position of another health care professional employed by the hospital;
6. Does not delay a response to any dispatch as a result of his or her duties in the emergency department; and
7. Is not be utilized to meet any personnel requirement for in-hospital purposes as required by N.J.A.C. 8:43G.

#### 8:41A-5.2 Enforcement actions

(a) The Commissioner, or his or her designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT-Paramedic certification when, in his or her opinion, the continued certification of that person poses an immediate or serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

1. A person whose EMT-Paramedic certification has been summarily suspended shall have the right to apply for emergency relief, as provided for at N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.3(a).

(b) The Commissioner, or his or her designee, may issue a formal written warning, impose a monetary penalty, place on probation, suspend, revoke and/or refuse to issue or renew the certification of any EMT-Paramedic for violation of any of the rules set forth in this chapter. This shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Demonstrated incompetence or inability to provide adequate services;
2. Deceptive or fraudulent procurement of certification or recertification credentials and/or documentation;
3. Negligent practice;
4. Acting beyond the approved scope of practice of an EMT-Paramedic;
5. Abuse or abandonment of a patient;
6. Rendering of services while under the influence of any substance that substantially compromises a person's decision-making abilities (including, but not limited to, alcohol or narcotics);
7. Operation of any emergency medical services vehicle (including, but not limited to, a BLS ambulance, MICU, SCTU or AMU) in a reckless or grossly negligent manner or while under the influence of any substance that substantially compromises a person's decision-making abilities (including, but not limited to, alcohol or narcotics);
8. Unauthorized disclosure of medical or other confidential patient information;
9. Willful preparation or filing of false medical reports, or the inducement of others to do so;
10. Destruction of medical records, including but not limited to patient care reports, or other records or reports required by the Department;
11. Refusal to respond to a call or to render medical services while on duty because of a patient's race, sex, creed, national origin, sexual preference, age, disability, medical condition or ability to pay;
12. Conviction of any crime;
13. Conviction of any disorderly persons offense;
14. Conviction of a petty disorderly persons offense involving the possession, utilization, sale and/or distribution of any controlled dangerous substance; representing a risk of harm to the health, safety or welfare of patients; and/or involving patient abuse or patient neglect;
15. Misuse, misappropriation or theft of any drug, medication or equipment;