



Monroe-Livingston Regional Emergency Medical Services Council

EMS Education – Transition to the National Standards

For Course Sponsors, Agencies, and Providers

Recently, the NYS DOH BEMS adopted the National Standards for EMS Education. While this is a great move for education, the timeline for implementation is quite narrow and there continues to be many questions ranging from testing to reimbursement. For Course Sponsors that have not seen a webinar about the changes from Andy Johnson, please [click here](#). The Bureau of EMS has an updated webpage with transition material available as well, and that can be found [here](#).

The general approach to the National Standards is that educators must provide essential material to students and that a variety of methods and materials exist in order to do so. As such, there is no set curriculum and course times may vary between instructors/course sponsors.

CFRs/EMTs must update to the National Standards by June 30, 2014. CFRs/EMTs taking NYS Exams beginning in December 2012 and onward will be testing against the National Standards. CME recertification program participants submitting for recertification on or after December 20, 2012 must demonstrate completion of transition course material.

Paramedics must update to the National Standards by June 30, 2015. Paramedics taking NYS Exams beginning in August 2013 and onward will be testing against the National Standards.

Some providers may have to recertify early to meet the update deadlines.

CFR/EMT Content

CFRs must update to the CFR material, while EMTs must update to both the CFR and the EMT material, as there is information in both the CFR and EMT standards that EMT's may not have received in a previous original or refresher course. Officials are in the process of developing information for what Paramedics must cover in their updates.

The NYS DOH BEMS website hosts documents that contain the information necessary for inclusion of the transitional material. These documents are located on the [transitional page](#) under the heading, "These documents are the National Instructional Guidelines". State officials highlighted required material in yellow. This information is only the transitional material and not all required material include in a refresher course.

Original and refresher courses must contain the transition material and the State will not approve stand-alone transition courses given by Course Sponsors. Additionally, refresher courses must contain a challenge option. One solution for refresher courses is to hold the required transition classes for everyone, then the challenge written, then the challenge exam, and then the necessary refresher classes.

State officials should have updated skill sheets for CFR and EMT approved very soon. Finalized documents are in the authorization process for placement on the NYS DOH BEMS website.

Course Schedules –

State officials want to see topic areas in schedules, inclusive of the transition material, and not necessarily a specific number of hours. State officials estimate the length for the transition material at about 13 hours for CFR and 26 hours for EMT. These estimates include “essential content” only. Hours may vary depending on the number of students, capabilities of students, and capabilities of instructors. However, schedules should appropriately reflect the hours necessary to cover the required material. Please clearly label those classes within a course that contain transitional material.

Additionally, course sponsors must resubmit previously approved course schedules that do not contain a schedule of transitional material. Course sponsors must re-work course schedules to include the transitional material and then resubmit for approval.

CME Based Recertification –

Typically, the earliest a provider can recertify is 9 months prior to their current certification expiration. A small number of providers may have to recertify early to meet the update deadline for their certification level. If this is the case, and the provider has met the requirements for the transitional material, agencies should annotate a provider’s paperwork to note that early submission is due to the update requirement.

While the DOH does not allow stand-alone transition programs to be administered by Course Sponsors as part of an original or refresher course, they do allow them as part of a CME recertification program; however, a valid NYS CIC must conduct such programs.

There are two options for providers in the CME program:

1. To maintain accumulated core/non-core hours and add the transitional material with documentation via an additional supplemental form submitted with a provider’s CME material. This form is under development and not yet released, but should be ready and posted to the NYS DOH BEMS website soon.
2. Utilize a new 2013 CME Based Recertification form with new (undisclosed) hourly requirements inclusive of the transitional material. This form is also under development and not yet released, but should be ready and posted to the NYS DOH website soon.

Funding Options –

We are aware of the increased financial investment Course Sponsors will have to make in order to deliver the appropriate content, and are waiting to how the DOH will address this issue. Each Course Sponsor should do their own research and projections to insure that they are financially able to maintain their programs going forward.

Course Sponsors may currently utilize either state funding or charge tuition, but not both. State officials will notify course sponsors if other options, currently under evaluation, are feasible and/or approved.

Note that information contained in this document is current as of July 27, 2012 and that information is subject to change. Further changes will be sent out as necessary.