

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT  
#SP-090-PHS-EMS**

**Clarification of  
Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Title 9, Chapter 25, Article 3, Training Programs**

*This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1033 for a review of the statement.*

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The purpose of this substantive policy statement is to provide the public with clarification of the Arizona Department of Health Services' (Department's) policy regarding the educational standards for certification of emergency medical technicians (EMTs). This substantive policy statement clarifies that the course content of a training program certified by the Department must be consistent with the materials covered on the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) registration examination that a candidate for Arizona emergency medical technician certification must take to complete NREMT registration.

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 36-2205(A) states that the "director, in consultation with the medical director of emergency medical services, the emergency medical services council and the medical direction commission, shall establish protocols, which may include training criteria, governing the medical treatments, procedures, medications and techniques which may be administered or performed by each class of emergency medical technician." The Department has established the requirements for training programs for emergency medical technicians in 9 A.A.C. 25, Article 3.

A.A.C. R9-25-304(A)(5) states that, for each session of a course provided, a training program certificate holder shall meet all requirements in 9 A.A.C. 25, Article 3, established for the course. A.A.C. R9-25-305(B)(9) and (B)(10)(b) state that an Arizona EMT-B training course is required to include a "final closed book written course examination" and a "final comprehensive practical skills examination" that enables a student to meet NREMT-Basic registration requirements, while A.A.C. R9-25-308(B)(8) and (B)(9)(b) state that an Arizona EMT-P training course is required to include a "final closed book written course examination" and a "final comprehensive practical skills examination" that enables a student to meet NREMT-Paramedic registration requirements.

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) published the *National EMS Scope of Practice*, which defined and standardized levels of EMS personnel licensure/certification to promote reciprocity between states, improve mobility of EMS personnel, and clarify the roles of EMS personnel for the public. This document established four levels of EMS personnel: an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level that closely matches the "first responder" level defined in A.R.S. § 36-2201; an EMT level closely matching the requirements for Arizona EMT-B certification; an AEMT level with requirements higher than those for the EMT level but lower than the level for Arizona EMT-I(99) certification, and a Paramedic level closely matching the requirements for Arizona EMT-P certification. Beginning on June 1, 2011 for the AEMT level, January 1, 2012 for the EMR and EMT levels, and January 1, 2013 for the Paramedic

level, the NREMT registration examinations will reflect knowledge, skills, and competencies conforming to NHTSA's 2009 *National Emergency Medical Services Educational Standards* (<http://www.ems.gov/education/nationalstandardandncs.html>). As of December 31, 2011, the NREMT-First Responder and NREMT-Basic registration examinations are no longer available.

To ensure that a student is aware of whether or not the emergency medical training provided to the student is consistent with the materials covered on the new NREMT registration examinations, the Department will require that any training courses begun on or after February 1, 2012 by certified training programs either:

- Include the knowledge, skills, and competencies consistent with the *National Emergency Medical Services Educational Standards* for the applicable level of EMS personnel being trained, or
- Provide notice to individuals applying for the training course that the training course is not consistent with the materials covered on the new NREMT registration examinations and describe what discrepancies exist.

When the statutes in A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 21.1 are changed to reflect the new levels for EMS personnel, the Department will revise the rules in 9 A.A.C. 25 concerning the educational standards and training criteria for EMS personnel consistent with the statutory changes.