

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

**SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT
#SP-091-PHS-EMS**

**Clarification of
Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Title 9, Chapter 25, Article 4, EMT Certification**

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.

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 prerequisites for certification of emergency medical technicians. This substantive policy statement clarifies 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.) § 36-2201 defines a "basic emergency medical technician" as a "person who has been trained in specific emergency care in a basic emergency medical technician program certified by the director or in an equivalent training program and who is certified by the director as qualified to render services pursuant to § 36-2205." A.R.S. § 36-2201 also defines an "emergency paramedic" or "paramedic" as a "person who has been trained in an emergency paramedic training program certified by the director or in an equivalent training program and who is certified by the director to render services pursuant to § 36-2205." 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 basic emergency medical technician (EMT-B) and paramedic (EMT-P) certification in A.A.C. R9-25-404.

A.A.C. R9-25-404(B)(1) states that the documentation required of an individual applying for EMT-B certification includes not only a certificate of Arizona EMT-B course completion, but also evidence of current NREMT-Basic registration. Similarly, A.A.C. R9-25-404(B)(3) states that the documentation required of an individual applying for EMT-P certification includes not only a certificate of Arizona EMT-P course completion, but also evidence of current NREMT-Paramedic registration. In order to obtain NREMT registration, an individual must pass a standardized NREMT examination covering materials specific to the scope of practice of the level of EMS personnel for which the individual is requesting registration. A.A.C. R9-25-405 established requirements for a temporary, non-renewable certification pathway, required by A.R.S. 36-2202(A)(2), for individuals who hold NREMT registration but have not yet completed the Arizona EMT-B course or Arizona EMT-P course, as applicable.

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, with the EMT level closely matching the requirements for Arizona EMT-B certification, the AEMT level having requirements higher than those for the EMT level but lower than the level for

Arizona EMT-I(99) certification, and the Paramedic level closely matching the requirements for Arizona EMT-P certification. Beginning June 1, 2011 for the AEMT level, January 1, 2012 for the EMT level, and January 1, 2013 for the Paramedic level, the NREMT registration examinations will reflect knowledge, skills, and competencies for the newly established levels of EMS personnel conforming to new NHTSA educational standards for the four levels of EMS personnel defined in the *National EMS Scope of Practice*.

Since the NREMT is no longer offering NREMT-Basic testing and registration, the Department will accept NREMT registration at the EMT level or AEMT level as meeting the requirement in A.A.C. R9-25-404(B)(1)(b) for applying for Arizona EMT-B certification or as meeting the requirement in A.A.C. R9-25-405(A) for applying for a temporary six-month EMT-B certification, and will award Arizona EMT-B certification or temporary six-month EMT-B certification as follows:

- An individual who passes the NREMT-Basic registration examination will receive the Arizona EMT-B certification or temporary six-month EMT-B certification.
- An individual who passes the NREMT registration examination at the EMT level will receive the Arizona EMT-B certification or temporary six-month EMT-B certification with a note that the individual meets the requirements for certification at the national EMT level entered into the individual's record.
- An individual who passes the NREMT registration examination at the AEMT level will receive the Arizona EMT-B certification or temporary six-month EMT-B certification with a note that the individual meets the requirements for certification at the national AEMT level entered into the individual's record.

The Department will accept NREMT registration at the Paramedic level as meeting the requirement in A.A.C. R9-25-404(B)(3)(b) for applying for Arizona EMT-P certification or as meeting the requirement in A.A.C. R9-25-405(B) for applying for a temporary six-month EMT-P certification, and will award Arizona EMT-P certification or temporary six-month EMT-P certification as follows:

- An individual who passes the NREMT registration examination at the Paramedic level before January 1, 2013 will receive the Arizona EMT-P certification or temporary six-month EMT-P certification.
- An individual who passes the NREMT registration examination at the Paramedic level on or after January 1, 2013 will receive the Arizona EMT-P certification or temporary six-month EMT-P certification with a note that the individual meets the requirements for certification at the national Paramedic level entered into the individual's record.

When the statutes in A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 21.1 are changed to reflect the new national levels for EMS personnel, the Department will revise the rules in 9 A.A.C. Chapter 25 to conform to the statutory changes for the levels of EMS personnel and reflect the new educational standards and will issue the applicable new certifications to individuals whose records reflect their having met the requirements for certification as described above.