

**M A S S A C H U S E T T S**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENT MANUAL**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2013     **AUTHORIZATION:** J. Pianka, Director

**TITLE:** Transition Requirements for EMT-Basics and EMT-Paramedics

**Purpose:**

Massachusetts has adopted both the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) National EMS Scope of Practice Model (National Scope), and NHTSA's National EMS Education Standards, which sets training standards based on the National Scope. Together, these standards make some change to the Massachusetts EMT-Basic and EMT-Paramedic standard scope of practice and training requirements.

Under the EMS System regulations, 105 CMR 170.000, the term "EMT-Basic" will be defined to be the level of EMS personnel called "EMT" under the National Scope. (Because the EMS statute in Massachusetts defined "EMT" to be all levels of EMT, the term "EMT-Basic" is required.) Under the EMS System regulations, the term "Paramedic" will be defined to be the previous "EMT-Paramedic" and is the level of EMS personnel called "Paramedic" under the National Scope.

While currently certified Massachusetts EMT-Basics and Paramedics are not required to obtain National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification – the basis for certification of all **new** EMTs in Massachusetts – they will need to take some additional training course(s) to be fully trained to the National Scope. All Massachusetts EMT-Basics and Paramedics must complete this transitional training in accordance with the timelines in this administrative requirement. This transitional training will be accepted toward the recertification education requirements and not required to be addition to continuing education hours.

**Timeline for Transition:**

**A. Out-of-state EMTs and Paramedics seeking Massachusetts certification based on out-of-state license or certification, or NREMT certification, will be able to do so effective July 1, 2013:** OEMS will begin certifying those who hold an EMT or EMT-Basic license or certification from another state, or who hold NREMT EMT certification, as Massachusetts EMT-Basics. OEMS will begin certifying those who hold a Paramedic or EMT-Paramedic license or certification from another state, or who hold NREMT Paramedic certification, as Massachusetts Paramedics.

**B. Current Massachusetts EMT-Basics and EMT-Paramedics will be required to complete transition training to the new National Scope for their level by March 31, 2016/March 31, 2017 depending on certification cycle:** Currently certified EMT-Basics and EMT-Paramedics who wish to continue their certification must take the necessary training course(s) to National Scope EMT or Paramedic, respectively, by March 31, 2016, if their current certification expires 4/1/2014, and by March 31, 2017, if their certification expires 4/1/2015. In the interim period, they will be eligible to renew their certification at their current level until March 31, 2016, if their current certification expires 4/1/2014, and March 31, 2017, if their current certification expires 4/1/2015. This timeline was developed to allow all Massachusetts providers a full renewal cycle in which to complete the necessary transition process. Current Massachusetts EMT-Basics and EMT-Paramedics may begin taking and receiving credit for the transition training course(s) for EMT-Basics and EMT-Paramedics to National Scope EMT and Paramedic level will be accepted effective immediately, as some training institutions are already conducting this transition training.

**Transition Course Credit:**

A. EMT Basic to National Scope transition:

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1. The gap between the EMT-Basic in Massachusetts and the National Scope EMT does not require significant retraining and therefore may be accomplished through required courses that will count toward required recertification education requirements.
2. EMT-Basics who complete the National Scope EMT transitional training course will receive continuing education credit for the recertification cycle in which they take the course, based upon the hours of training that the course is approved for. This credit will be recognized by the NREMT continued competency continuing education process, which all Massachusetts EMTs at all levels will be using to document their continuing education and receive credit toward recertification starting in 2015.

**B. EMT Paramedic to National Scope transition:**

1. The gap between the EMT-Paramedic in Massachusetts and the National Scope Paramedic does not require significant retraining, especially for Massachusetts EMT-Paramedics who have interfacility transfer training and therefore may be accomplished through required courses that will count toward required recertification education requirements.
2. EMT-Paramedics who complete the National Scope Paramedic transitional training course or courses will receive continuing education credit for the recertification cycle in which they take the course, based upon the number of training hours the course is approved for. This credit will be recognized by the NREMT continued competency continuing education process, which all Massachusetts EMTs at all levels will be using to document their continuing education and receive credit toward recertification starting in 2015.