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To: EMS Medical Directors
EMS System Coordinators
EMS Advisory Council

From: Leslee Stein-Spencer R.N., M.S. *Leslee*
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Date: July 9, 2019

Subject: National Registry Testing

As part of an effort to adopt national EMS standards, IDPH is seeking to transition away from the Illinois State EMS Exams and towards the National Registry (NR) exams. As part of this process, beginning April 1, 2020, the Division of EMS will **ONLY** be offering the NREMT cognitive licensing exams (written and practical). Section 515.530 states the following:

- b) After completion of an approved education program and a recommendation to test by the EMS MD or designee, candidates shall take a written licensure examination. Candidates shall have the choice of taking either the NREMT written and psychomotor examination or the Department's examination if eligible and available. The Department's written examinations shall be based on the national EMS education standards and practice analysis and are equivalent to the NREMT written examinations as modified by the Department.

The Illinois State Paramedic and EMT exams will no longer be available as of April 1, 2020. The Illinois State exams will be replaced by the NR exams as of April 1, 2020.

Looking at what other states do, Illinois is one of only four states (MT, NC, and NY) that does not require NR as the initial licensing/certification exam. It is time for Illinois to meet the national standard and become a NR testing state. This new change will allow for enhanced reciprocity and, in time, open the door to Illinois becoming an EMS Compact state.

As you are aware, EMS Systems and training programs adopted the New Education Standards and prepared their teaching curriculums to adhere to these new standards

beginning **January 1, 2013**. In addition, IDPH adopted the National EMS Scopes of Practice Model, with some minor adjustments.

Existing EMT-I's can maintain an Illinois license by meeting all required criteria and CME. However, new EMT-I classes will need to adhere to the IDPH adjusted national A-EMT training standards and subsequently take the NR A-EMT cognitive exam.

A National Registry exam will only be required for initial testing and licensure, following graduation from an Illinois approved EMS provider training program. So long as a new applicant for licensure successfully passes a NR Exam and thereafter continuously maintains Illinois licensure (and required CME), it will not be necessary to repeat a NR Exam in order to renew an unexpired Illinois EMT, A-EMT or Paramedic license.

Existing licensees will not be required to pass an NR exam in order to renew an unexpired Illinois EMS license.

After initial Illinois licensure, maintenance of a NR Certification will be optional. It will be up to each individual to decide whether or not he/she wants to maintain a NR certification. However, in order to practice in Illinois, maintenance of a valid Illinois EMS license continue to be required. This will not change.

In order to answer all questions and concerns, staff from the National Registry will be coming to ICEP on October 3rd from 1-3 p.m. They will give a brief overview of their testing process and answer any and all questions. Additional details will be provided in a future memorandum, in the meantime, please save the date.

c: Winfred C. Rawls, Deputy Director
Regional EMS Coordinators
Jason Kegg M.D., State Medical Director
Katheryn Lokaitis, Ambulance, Education & Licensing Section Chief