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To: EMS Medical Directors
EMS System Coordinators
EMS Advisory Council

From: Ashley Thoele, MBA, BSN, RN
Division Chief *AT*
Division of EMS & Highway Safety

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Subject: Status: Transition to National Registry Testing

Per the Department's July 9, 2019 memo, the statewide transition to National Registry exams for EMT, A-EMT, and Paramedic candidates is nearly complete. Effective April 1, 2020 the Illinois State exams will be replaced by National Registry exams. Thank you, again, for your work over the last year preparing for this change.

As a reminder: A National Registry exam will only be required for initial testing and licensure. So long as a new applicant for licensure successfully passes a National Registry exam, and thereafter continuously maintains Illinois licensure (and required Continuing Education), it will not be necessary to repeat a National Registry exam in order to renew an unexpired Illinois EMT, A-EMT, or Paramedic license. Existing licensees will not be required to pass a National Registry exam in order to renew an unexpired Illinois license.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CANDIDATES SEEKING ADDITIONAL EXAM ATTEMPTS

Per Illinois Administrative Code (Section 515.530) - After three unsuccessful attempts to pass the licensure examination, candidates shall take a refresher course in alignment with the NREMT Cognitive Examination Retest Policy. In the past, the EMS MD submitted to IDPH a request for additional exam attempts on behalf of the candidate. With NREMT, approval for additional attempts will be handled through the NREMT approval process. All requests for additional attempts that are submitted to IDPH will be routed back to the candidate to pursue with NREMT.

For information about the NREMT Cognitive Exam Policies, including Retesting, visit:

<https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/document/policy-cognitive-exam>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, continued

TESTING FOR LICENSURE REINSTATEMENT

Per Illinois Administrative Code (Section 515.640) Illinois-licensed EMRs, EMDs, EMTs, EMT-Is, A-EMTs, Paramedics, ECRNs, or PHRNs whose license has been expired for less than 36 months may apply for reinstatement. All applicants must go through an EMS System in order to pursue Reinstatement of Licensure.

Since the applicant must pass a Department-approved test for the level of EMS Personnel license sought to be reinstated, the process for requesting Reinstatement testing (for EMTs, A-EMTs, and Paramedics) will continue to require the completion of the “EMS License Reinstatement Application.” The application requires signatures of the EMS Medical Director and EMS System Coordinator. Upon completion, the Application should be sent to IDPH for review and processing.

REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION: <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/ems-license-reinstatement-application-061416.pdf>

IDPH will review the Reinstatement Application and notify the candidate and EMS System Coordinator of the decision. If approved, IDPH will provide the candidate with the NREMT Assessment Exam registration instructions, as well as follow-up instructions for candidates who pass the exam.

DPH PORTAL RESOURCES

EMS System Coordinators and others who have IDPH Portal Accounts can access additional testing and licensing resources through the EMS Community page on the Portal.

Visit: <https://dph.partner.illinois.gov> and log-in with your Portal ID & Password
Hover your mouse over the **[COMMUNITIES]** tab at the top menu, then click **[EMS System Coordinators]**

On that landing page, you will see a list of “Announcements” which usually point you toward a DOCUMENT that is saved under “DOCUMENTS” on the left. There are also FORMS and PICTURES.

ATTACHMENTS

1. July 9, 2019 memo regarding transition to NREMT testing
2. Frequently Asked Questions regarding transition to NREMT testing

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact the Division of EMS & Highway Safety at 217-785-2080 or by e-mail at DPH.EMTLIC@illinois.gov.