



PRESENTATION FOR THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

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MASSACHUSETTS EMS REFORMS

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JANUARY 2014

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# REGULATORY CHANGES

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**1. National EMS Personnel Certification Standards**

- a) Initial Certification
- b) Recertification

**2. National EMS Scope of Practice Transition**

**3. National EMS Education Standards**

**4. Medical Direction/Medical Oversight of EMS**

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## OUTREACH & ADVISORY GROUPS

<b>STAKEHOLDER</b>	<b>DATE</b>
American College of Surgeons	September 2012
Massachusetts Ambulance Association	February 28, 2013
Full EMCAB Meeting	April 23, 2013
Fire Chief Association of Massachusetts	April 24, 2013
Region I Leadership Outreach Forum	April 30, 2013
Region V Leadership Outreach Forum	May 7, 2013
Region II Leadership Outreach Forum	May 14, 2013
Region IV Leadership Outreach Forum	May 21, 2013
Region III Leadership Outreach Forum	May 28, 2013
Medical Directors Forums	June 2012 & June 2013
Training Institution Education Forum	June 18, 2013
Legislative Outreach	Various
Various Stakeholder Outreach (1:1 meetings)	Various

## SUPPORT OF REFORMS IN EMS

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- **Strategic Planning Task Force**
- **Department of Public Health; Commissioner's Office**
- **Bureau Leadership-Health Care Safety & Quality**
- **Stakeholder group support**
  - Physician Groups
    - MACEP
    - ACS
  - Training Institutions & Educators
  - Fire Service Leadership & Labor
  - Ambulance Service Directors
  - EMS Providers
  - National Organizations

MAJOR AREA

# 1

## EMS PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION (INITIAL)

### Former Massachusetts Standard

**Overview:**

- Exams are only recognized in Massachusetts
- State written exams are outdated
- State certification processing is manual and paper based
- 12-15 week duration to obtain certification

**Fees:**

<u>BLS Provider</u>	<b>\$355</b>	<u>ALS Provider</u>	<b>\$455</b>
Written Test:	\$55	Written Test:	\$55
Practical Test:	\$150*	Practical Test:	\$250*
MA-Certification:	\$150	MA-Certification:	\$150

\* practical exam fee vary depending on the exam site

### New Massachusetts Standard (NREMT)

**Overview:**

- Used in 45 other states as well as by the DOD, DHS, & DOJ. NREMT certification is recognized in these states enhancing overall workforce.
- Exams have undergone a high level of scrutiny and are updated throughout the year
- National certification processing is electronic
- 1-2 week duration to obtain certification

**Fees:**

<u>BLS Provider</u>	<b>\$370</b>	<u>ALS Provider</u>	<b>\$475</b>
Written Test:	\$55	Written Test:	\$55
Practical Test:	\$150*	Practical Test:	\$250*
NREMT-Certification:	\$15	NREMT-Certification:	\$20
MA-Certification:	\$150	MA-Certification:	\$150

\* practical exam fee vary depending on the exam site

- **OPTIONAL** to pursue NREMT certification for all current MA EMTs

**MAJOR AREA**

**# 1**

# EMS PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION (RENEWAL)

## Former Massachusetts Standard

**Overview:**

- Recertification occurs biannually
- Entirely paper-based submission process
- Many problems with course approvals, recording training at state office
- Hundreds of thousands of records entered annually
- Many training record errors requiring many issues with individual EMT training records

**Fees:**

<u>BLS Provider</u>	<b>\$150</b>	<u>ALS Provider</u>	<b>\$150</b>
MA-Certification:	\$150	MA-Certification:	\$150

## New Massachusetts Standard (with NREMT)

**Overview:**

- Recertification occurs biannually
- Automated-electronic web based system
- Integrates agency's training officer into the process; physicians closely involved for paramedics
- Records are entered at the agency or individual level
- Cost burden would be the same (or less) if new regulations pass, dropping the recertification fee to \$125.

**Fees:**

<u>BLS Provider</u>	<b>\$145</b>	<u>ALS Provider</u>	<b>\$150</b>
NREMT-Con Ed profile:	\$20	NREMT-Con Ed profile:	\$25
MA-Certification:	\$125	MA-Certification:	\$125

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# 2

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## SCOPE OF PRACTICE TRANSITION

The **National EMS Scope of Practice** was released in early 2007 by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to aid states in developing and refining their scope-of practice parameters and licensure requirements.

Adoption of this scope of practice transition is important for consistency with national standards, regardless of NREMT status.

### The Task force that contributed to it was comprised of:

- NHTSA
- U.S. Health & Human Services
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Firefighters
- American College of Surgeons
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American Ambulance Association
- National Association of State EMS Officials
- EMS for Children
- National Association of EMTs
- National Registry of EMTs

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE TRANSITION

## Former Massachusetts Standard

**Overview:**

- Massachusetts EMTs not integrated into the National Standard EMS Scope of Practice; the transition is supported by the Institute of Medicine in an effort to bridge training gaps nation wide and ensure modern standards are being met
- Massachusetts EMTs would not be able to practice in any other state after 2017 without retraining
  
- Some Massachusetts certification levels are based upon 27 year old curricula which is no longer supported by evidence for best practices and therefore national certification.

**Fees:**

N/A

## New Massachusetts Standard

**Overview:**

- All EMTs & Paramedics would be within National Standards for National Scope of Practice by 2017.
  
- Massachusetts would discontinue EMT-Intermediates, a level which is no longer supported nationally; many physicians in Massachusetts no longer support this level. Note: there are approximately 600 EMT-Is in MA out of approximately 20,000 EMS providers.
- EMT-Intermediates would have the option of transitioning up to the new "Advanced-EMT" level (~100 hr course & written exam) or drop to the EMT level.

**Fees:**

<u>EMT-I to AEMT</u>	\$570	<u>Other Providers</u>	N/A
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Transition Course: \$500\*

Written Test: \$55

NREMT-Certification: \$15

\* Course fee is an estimate.  
 \*\* Other providers (EMT & Paramedics) will need to complete transition courses however these courses will count towards their continuing education credits. There should be no additional cost burden for these populations.

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# 3

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## EMS EDUCATION (PARAMEDIC)

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- Paramedic level training programs require CAAHEP accreditation for National certification.
- Many Massachusetts training programs are working towards this accreditation.
- Paramedic candidates starting after Jan 1, 2013 at non-accredited/non-Letter of Review programs will NOT be eligible for National Certification.

This January 1, 2013 deadline has passed

CAAHEP-Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

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## EMS EDUCATION (PARAMEDIC)

### Former EMS Education Environment

**Overview:**

- 24 Paramedic training institutions, many with inadequate resources and lacking physician oversight
- Inadequate clinical sites and/or clinical management
- National accreditation not required (only 1 in-state program had CAAHEP accreditation)
- Candidates who started a course after Jan 1 2013 at a non-nationally accredited program are never eligible for national certification; those who started after July 1 2013 are not eligible for MA certification either

**Fees:**

<u>BLS Institute</u>	\$500	<u>ALS Institute</u>	\$500
MA-Accreditation:	\$500	MA-Accreditation:	\$500

\* MA-accreditations are good for 1 year

### New Massachusetts Standard (CAAHEP/CoAEMSP)

**Overview:**

- Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) required for all paramedic programs. Review process is conducted by the Commission on the Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professionals (CoAEMSP)
- Training programs lead to both national and state certification
- Each program must be affiliated with a college, university or teaching hospital. Programs undergo a regular high level of scrutiny and review by an independent review board.
- Some small education institutions may not be able to gain national accreditation and be able to continue training paramedics in Massachusetts.

**Fees:**

<u>BLS Provider</u>	\$500	<u>ALS Provider</u>	\$5500
MA-Accreditation:	\$500	CAAHEP/CoAEMSP:	\$5000
		MA-Accreditation:	\$500

\* MA-accreditations are good for 1 year

\*\* CAAHEP accreditations fee reflects \$1200 initial accreditation fee, \$2300 site visit fee and \$1500 in other fees. Accreditation is good for 3 years; reaccreditation fee is \$1200 & \$500/year

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# 4

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## MEDICAL DIRECTION (BLS)

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### Regulatory role of the physician:

- Involved in EMS education, competency assessments/minimum competency standards
  - Authorizes EMS personnel to practice
  - Recertification review of all providers
  - CQI and full feedback loop
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**# 4**

## MEDICAL DIRECTION (BLS)

### Former Massachusetts Standard

#### Overview:

- Currently there are a small number of BLS services with no physician involvement or oversight.
- Many BLS services have some alignment with a physician for certain medications administered, but no formal relationship.

#### Fees:

BLS is not required to have a physician involved. Fees for Medical Direction for BLS services (who elect to have a physician involved) and for ALS services vary by service; these are not state-issued fees.

### New Massachusetts Standard

#### Overview:

- Physician oversight of all EMS agencies, not just paramedic services. This will drastically improve overall quality.
- Physician will be involved in system through clinical oversight, quality improvement measures, training and recertification
- May be additional cost for EMS agencies including fire-based services.

#### Fees:

Fees for Medical Direction for BLS and ALS services vary; these are not state-issued fees.