

New National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards and National Scope of Practice

The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Emergency Medical Systems and Highway Safety, will transition all facets of EMS education for initial certification, licensure and continuing education to the new National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards effective January 1, 2013.

In coordination with the State of Illinois Education Committee, the Department will develop a curriculum guide. Any courses being conducted under the old United States Department of Transportation National Standard Curriculum must be approved and started prior to January 1, 2013. **An approved course that ends after January 1, 2013, will be tested under the new National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards.**

Information on the new education standards can be obtained at www.ems.gov.

In addition to transitioning to the new National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards, the Department also will be adopting the National EMS Scope of Practice Model, thus resulting in the following changes:

- Existing First Responder Defibrillator certifications will be recognized as Emergency Medical Responder (EMR).
- Emergency Medical Technician-Basic will be recognized as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
- A new license level will be recognized as Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT).
- Existing EMT-Intermediate licenses will be recognized through December 31, 2017.
- EMT-Paramedic will be recognized as Paramedic.

An EMT-Intermediate wishing to upgrade to paramedic, using the old National Standard Curriculum, will need to apply for and start the program before January 1, 2013, with the understanding that they will be tested under the new National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards if the course ends after January 1, 2013.

The Department will continue to offer licensure exams through a state-contracted testing vendor. The National Registry exam also will continue to be a testing option for obtaining Illinois licensure.