



National Registry of EMTs
Summary of the Board of Directors June 8/9, 2021 Meeting

The National Registry Board of Directors met on June 8/9, 2021 for an in-person meeting. The board approved the following motions and resolutions:

- **21-RESOLUTION-01. Use of CAPCE F4.** CAPCE adopted a new F4 designation for continuing education wherein the user/student interacts with the activity in such a way that their actions and choices dictate the direction of the activity or case. This includes interactive games or immersive virtual programs that include patient scenarios or mobile platforms requiring input to guide the activity. F4 category courses are functionally equivalent to non-distributive types of education. The National Registry will modify applications and materials, as necessary, to include F4 courses into upcoming recertification seasons.
- **21-MOTION-04. Revised Appeal Policy.** This motion updates the Appeals policy to allow candidates to attend appeals hearings in-person or by electronic video means.
- **21-MOTION-05. Approval of Policies.** This motion approves 27 policies related to examination development, examination administration, scoring and examination results, and impartiality. Although the National Registry has historically had policies, procedures, or processes in place to address all of the policies approved through this motion, this formally centralizes and officially approves these policies aligned with certification industry best practices and with the "Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing."
- **21-MOTION-07. Policy on Policies.** This motion authorizes the refinement and evolution of the Board policy approval and oversight processes, including greater opportunity for public input to relevant policies, more strategic-level direction to the Executive Director to develop policies through the use of resolutions, and oversight by the Board to ensure the Board's intent and strategy are ultimately implemented through policy execution.
- **21-RESOLUTION-08. Fitness to Practice.** This resolution moves the National Registry away from evaluating criminal convictions as part of eligibility requirements for national certification and moves the criminal conviction review process to state EMS offices for possible licensure action. The date of implementation will be NO SOONER than two years and NO MORE than three years from the date of adoption. National Registry staff are directed by the Board to consult and collaborate with stakeholders as necessary for smooth implementation.
- **21-RESOLUTION-09. Distributed Education Limits Waiver.** This resolution authorizes the waiving of limits on distributive education for the 2022 NREMR, NREMT, NRAEMT, and NRP recertification season while anticipating a return to limited use of distributive education for the 2023 recertification season.
- **21-RESOLUTION-10. Summer Research Internship.** This resolution authorizes the creation of a summer research internship with the National Registry's research team, starting in 2022.
- **21-RESOLUTION-11. Longitudinal Inquiry into Fire and EMS Health.** This resolution authorizes the formation of a task force to seek funding and partner stakeholders for the development of research for a Longitudinal Inquiry into Fire and EMS Health (LIFE Study).
- **21-MOTION-12. ALS Examination Redesign.** This motion supports the continued progression of the ALS examination improvement plan, originally approved by the Board in 2019, as outlined in the April 8, 2021 ALS Exam Redesign Project.
- **21-MOTION-13. Approval Audit Policy.** This is a new certification policy that defines the requirements of an individual selected for an audit of their recertification application to include submitted education and documentation.
- **21-MOTION-14. Recertification Academic Credit.** This is a new certification policy that articulates academic credit (college courses) that is accepted by the National Registry for continuing education requirements.
- **21-MOTION-15. Recertification Accepted Education & Documentation Policy.** This is a new certification policy that specifies education accepted for recertification, reentry, and state licensed entry pathways. This policy also defines minimum standards for documentation of continuing education courses.
- **21-MOTION-16. Certification Schemes.** This motion authorizes the update of existing certification schemes, specifically further clarification and update to the prerequisites for certification at each of the four core levels.

- **21-MOTION-17. Approve 2022-2023 Strategic Goals.** This approves the strategic plan (goals and objectives) and authorizes staff to commence with development of accompanying tactics. The budget to complete the plan will be included in the 2022 budget submission.

The Board and liaisons received updates on process and policy changes from COVID, as follows:

- **Provisional Certification.** Provisional certifications will no longer be issued after 6/30/2021 and EMS professionals with a provisional certification have until 12/31/2021 to convert their certifications to a full certification.
- **Live Remote Proctored Exams.** Remote proctored computer based exams will continue to be offered for EMT and AEMT.
- **Distributed Education Limits.** The 2021/2022 recertification season will not be subject to the distributed education limits on continuing education, although the limits will resume for the 2022/2023 recertification season.

The Board and liaisons received an update on two important initiatives:

- **Continued Competency Initiative.** The National Registry's Continued Competency Initiative continues to progress. An Agenda Steering Committee, consisting of representatives of more than 20 EMS organizations, is meeting monthly to develop a *National EMS Continued Competency and Continuing Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. The *Agenda* will be the driving force for transforming the EMS industry's approach to continued competency. In support of the steering committee, National Registry staff members continue to lay the foundation for innovation through a national communications effort and identifying potential prototypes and pilot projects. Research projects underway include a modified Delphi study to identify consensus themes from EMS experts on continued competency, collaborative efforts with the Prehospital Guidelines Consortium to explore links between evolving medical evidence and National Registry examinations, and a comparison of maintenance of certifications requirements for comparable certifications. Additional task forces on specific topics are planned to identify needed improvements on potential interfaces with specialty certifications, continuing education rules, agency accreditors, and National Registry training officer and medical director verifications. The initiative is planned to continue through 2023 to develop recommendations for the next generation of tools to verify continued competency throughout the practitioner's career.
- **ALS Examination Redesign.** In 2019, the National Registry Board of Directors approved a framework for updating and refining the ALS examinations to better serve the EMS community and to better align with testing and certification industry best and emerging practices. This is part of National Registry's *Strengthening the Core* initiative and consists of four components:
 1. Supporting student minimum competencies by requiring physical skills competency as an *eligibility requirement* for ALS certification.
 2. Continuing to enhance the cognitive item banks by increasing the number of items and adding additional Technology Enhanced Items (TEIs).
 3. Creating a computer-based performance examination to measure clinical judgment and soft skills as they specifically apply to EMS.
 4. Sunsetting the current psychomotor examination and NREMT portfolio requirements.

The National Registry has been and will continue to work on the ALS examination redesign with a planned implementation in 2023. Bringing this initiative to fruition will involve on-going communications to the national EMS community and will capture input from various stakeholders, including a multidisciplinary, representative panel of experts that will advise the National Registry on the implementation of the new examination and related processes.

The following liaisons were able to provide a report to the Board during its meeting: NAEMSE, NAEMT, ARC, NVFC, CAPCE, CoAEMSP, DHS, NHTSA Office of EMS, IAFF, AHA, USAF, and NPS/US Forest Service