

ALS Redesign Expert Panel meeting October 25, 2021 2 p.m. ET



Summing it all up

The month's topic: Sunsetting the Psychomotor Examination

Presented to the Panel by Tom Platt and Greg Applegate

- Greg Applegate shared the National Registry needs to sunset its psychomotor examination but wants to ensure the process in how they go about it works well for the EMS community and its stakeholders.
- Greg addresses that is aware sunsetting of the psychomotor examination will affect many.
- This will be a momentous change for the community, as the examination has been protocol for many years.
- Greg noted that the biggest challenge will be ensuring communication to the EMS community and managing the change impact.
- There will be guidelines and resource sharing to make the transition efficient.
 - This expert panel will play a pivotal role in the development of the guidelines and implementation strategy.
- Tom recognizes, "Sunsetting the Psychomotor Examination is a disruption; however, this is positive, and the industry needs this change."
- We know we need to move from "it's the way we've always done it."

Impact on the states by Stephen Wilson

- Stephen Wilson shared state requirements for cognitive and psychomotor examinations and the challenges that we anticipate with the changes.
- We are aware and in conversation with most states that have rules or legislation regarding the cognitive and psychomotor examinations.
- Stephen brought up that Rule changes would require opening the state's rule book, which then will allow others to present changes as well.
- Stephen also reminded the group that legislative changes will require a state sponsor (Senator) to bring the bill forward, which then will require passage and signoff by the governor.
- State EMS officials are required to follow state statutes.
- The National Registry is working with a third-party vendor to determine impact to states and how the National Registry can assist individual states during this transition phase.
 - We should have information to report back by March 2022.
 - Model Rule/Legislative language could be a possible tool.

Impact on Program Directors and Programs by Paul Rosenberger

- Paul shared the pros and cons of the project in regards to the conversations we have conducted with many different programs and program directors to gauge their perspective on the sunsetting of the psychomotor examination.
 - PROS
 - Enhanced validity and reliability
 - Measures clinical judgement, decision making and communication skills
 - Accessible at Pearson VUE centers
 - One test – one sitting
 - CONS

- Huge paradigm shift-around since 1985
- Tracking skills in a portfolio
- Soft skills-will change instruction in the classroom
- Training program concerns regarding impact on pass/fail rate

The key points made during open discussion amongst the Panel

Chair Tom Platt open the floor to the panel to share their opinions on next steps, particularly on sunsetting the psychomotor examination.

- Expressed agreement that it is a good idea for the National Registry will allow states to use the psychomotor examination on their own as they work through their rule/legislative issues.
- Some concern was shared on the same topic, that if stakeholders are using the psychomotor examination and it is not being updated we will need a tight plan for the transition and what that means.
- Most educators will be in favor of this change as many have been ready for the psychomotor examination to go away. What they will need is more education, guidance and examples of the new test items.
- Some shared that from the perspective of a paramedic, there is not much change and not much time is needed to “prepare” for this change.
- A large conversation as centered around the question, “How are you going to trust but verify the training centers are completing the skills? Passing registry doesn’t necessarily mean employable and ready.”
 - Suggestions of site visits every so many years
 - Need to ensure there is no “pencil whipping”
 - Training programs need better response from employers on surveys
 - Watching how graduates are performing
 - It would be good for the National Registry to have a list of 60 (N that is significant) sample employers that could be assessed longitudinally with a portal to input data on new graduates. For example, the National Fire Academy sends the chief of the department of the attendee a short survey 6 months after the student was at the NFA see if the education made a difference.
 - It is most important to note that these activities can be considered out of the “National Registry’s lane,” and these belong to the state/accreditation agency. There is real concern with the National Registry stepping into programs.
- Transition to practice is important, but is missing
 - Skills competency will be demonstrated with the portfolio (SMC); continual (over the course) vs. a snapshot (single test).
 - The training programs need to work with the employer to come up with the solution that meets the needs of the patient. Most successful systems do this.
- Need to educate the consumer/client that the programs develop an ENTRY LEVEL provider, there must be in a change in the industry on the employer side
 - Job of the employer to credential on their system
 - Need to define what an entry level provider looks like

The consensus

Chair, Tom Platt informed the panel that transition to practice is an important topic. The panel will work together on defining entry level competency, so employers and educators understand expectations and their roles going forward. We also gathered that the community is ready for the change of sunsetting the psychomotor examination but the implementation and taking the time to provide a plethora of resources and education materials will be pivotal to its successful adoption.