The objective of the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) is to encourage lifelong learning. Lifelong learning is important to ensure EMS Clinicians are up-to-date on the latest clinical information and competent to deliver quality patient care.

The NCCP has three continuing education (CEU) requirement areas: National, State/Local, and Individual. The National Registry sets the requirements for the National portion. Effective in 2025 (nationally certified EMS clinicians with a certification expiration date of 03/31/2026), the number of hours of continuing education required by content (topic) is listed below under the “PROPOSED CREDITS BASED ON TEST SPECIFICATIONS” chart. There are no longer specific sub-topics that must addressed under each content (topic).
Additionally, the National Registry is strongly encouraging the incorporation of evidence based guidelines (EBGs) into the national component of the NCCP. As part of this overall initiative, the National Registry partnered with the Prehospital Guidelines Consortium (PGC). The PGC recommendations are to encourage EMS Clinicians and those who instruct them to incorporate evidence-based guidelines into their education and practice. The National Registry will help support this recommendation by providing open access to and/or summaries of the all of the designated guidelines meeting the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) criteria for high-quality guidelines.

The CEU changes for the National requirements are captured in the following tables below:
What You Need To Know

For State Officials, EMS Clinicians, Board and Staff, the National Registry is collaborating with partners to encourage lifelong learning by making the allocation of CEUs more meaningful while encouraging the use of evidence-based guidelines.

Key Takeaways

- The National Registry’s new NCCP helps to ensure that EMS clinicians maintain the knowledge and skills required for competent practice with greater flexibility, simplicity, and incorporation of EBGs as part of the national component of the NCCP.

- The National Registry encourages lifelong learning and supports the state and local determination of CEUs based on local needs.

- The National Registry partnered with the Prehospital Guidelines Consortium and will provide open access to and/or summaries of all identified EMS evidence-based guidelines meeting the NAM criteria for high-quality guidelines. See “2022 Systematic Review of Prehospital Evidence Based Guidelines” at: https://prehospitalguidelines.org/ebg-resources/

Questions

Q- What is NCCP?
A- The NCCP is a framework designed to encourage lifelong learning measured via continuing education units (CEUs) requirements that must be fulfilled every two years.

Q- Why should I care about NCCP?
A- It is important to stay up to date on new advances in healthcare and particularly changes that impact patient care.

Q- What are evidence-based guidelines?
A- For clinicians, evidence-based guidelines provide a summary of the relevant medical literature and offer assistance in deciding many aspects of clinical practice. They are peer-reviewed documents.
**Q- Where do I find evidence-based guidelines? Are they required?**

**A-** The PGC EBGs are not required as part of the NCCP, but strongly encouraged at this time. The 2022 Systematic Review of Prehospital Evidence Based Guidelines can be found here, at: [https://prehospitalguidelines.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2022-EMS-EBG-Systematic-Review_Educational-Summary.pdf](https://prehospitalguidelines.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2022-EMS-EBG-Systematic-Review_Educational-Summary.pdf). This systematic review will be updated every two years and will be made widely available for all to reference and utilize.

The PGC also offers additional resources on their website, including a reading list of EBGs which can be found at: [https://prehospitalguidelines.org/ebg-resources/](https://prehospitalguidelines.org/ebg-resources/)

**Q- What is the timing of these changes?**

**A-** The anticipated timing for this implementation is April 1, 2025, for certified EMS clinicians with a certification expiration date of March 31, 2026.

**Q- Will I continue reporting CEUs on my transcript and categorizing them?**

**A-** Yes, you will continue to report CEUs on your transcript. The main difference is that there will no longer be specific sub-topics that need completed as part of the national component. If you choose to incorporate education related to the EBGs, they can be included as part of your national component.

---

**Dates To Know**

**April 1, 2025**

On April 1, 2025, those with a certification date of 3/31/2026 will be required to submit education as indicated.