



Evidence-Based Guidelines & Table of Authorities

The objective of this initiative is to keep certification examinations clinically accurate, standardized, reliable and valid by constructing examinations that are consistent with the widely accepted high-quality evidence-based guidelines. A noted challenge in high stakes testing for medical professions is the management and examination integration of large amounts of new and developing scientific evidence.

The National Registry convened a National Clinical Guidelines Task Force consisting of EMS stakeholders and subject matter experts to provide recommendations on establishing a valid, reliable, standardized, and transparent link between evolving scientific literature and national EMS certification examinations.

The Task Force used a modified Delphi methodology to develop a Table of Authorities that includes the types of available evidence and the associated quality of evidence. The Task Force also provided timeline recommendations for implementation after considering the impact on examination development processes.

What You Need To Know

For EMS Clinicians, State Officials, and EMS Educators, the incorporation of evidence-based guidelines help to ensure certification examinations remain clinically accurate, standardized, reliable, and valid.



Key Takeaways

- * The National Registry is committed to keeping certification examinations clinically accurate, standardized, reliable and valid by using widely accepted high-quality evidence-based guidelines from credible sources.
- * The National Registry convened a National Clinical Guidelines Task Force consisting of EMS stakeholders and subject matter experts to provide recommendations on establishing a valid, standardized, and transparent link between scientific literature and national EMS certification examinations.
- * The Table of Authorities is provided below for EMS clinicians, EMS educators and training officers, and state officials to understand how emerging evidence is hierarchically ordered, used, and the related impacts to National Registry certification examination development.

Quality of Evidence	Recommendations for Care	Types of Evidence Primary Research	Informational or Educational Content	Impact on Initial Certification Examination
A	Evidence Based Guidelines (meet NAM criteria)	Systematic Review Meta-Analysis Randomized controlled study (blinded or other)		Ensure items are consistent with level A. Level A evidence should prompt immediate review of live items.
B	I Regulatory standards Legal Briefs / Court opinion Government standards			Ensure exam items are consistent with level B-1, B-II. Standardized item development timelines are sufficient.
	II National Model clinical guidelines Position statements Evidence Based Guidelines (not meet NAM criteria)	Retrospective Analysis Quasi-Randomized trials Observational Study	Education standards Structured training courses	Ensure exam items are consistent with level B-1, B-II. Standardized item development timelines are sufficient.
	III Best Practice Documents Technical Reports		Textbooks	Ensure items are supported by multiple documents/ references
C		Case series or reports	Expert opinion Expert lecture Informal Crowd source projects Blogs / podcasts	Evidence at this level is not appropriate for examination content

Table 3. Final combined table of evidence as developed by the panel and the associated impact of evidence quality on certification examination.



Questions

Q- Why are we changing?

A- The National Registry must ensure our examinations are inclusive of the most widely accepted and credible clinical evidence. These evidence-based guidelines along with our Practice Analysis ensure we are testing to the latest EMS standards.

Q- How will an education program prepare for the changes?

A- Education Programs should familiarize their staff with the Table of Authorities and how it can help to classify high-quality and poor-quality evidence for curricula development.

Q- When will this happen?

A- The Table of Authorities is routinely used by the National Registry Assessment Team when devising items for our certification examinations.

Q- Will there be adequate communications of these evidence-based guidelines?

A- Yes, the National Registry discusses this topic during local, state, and national webinars, conferences, trade shows, and symposiums. Social media is also another tool for communication.

Q- Will the textbook publishers (vendors) be notified?

A- The textbook publishers are part of the communication strategy.

Things To Know

New evidence-based guideline items are continuously developed that are based on the emerging science and research. The Table of Authorities is a tool for the national EMS community to differentiate high-quality and poor-quality evidence. For National Registry, it also helps us with examination question inclusion and exclusion timelines. These guidelines help our industry to have a safe hierarchal structure for emerging evidence. These new items will follow the same thorough and psychometrically sound process prior to their incorporation into examinations as scored items.