

ALS Redesign Expert Panel Meeting
August 22, 2022, 2 p.m. EDT



This Month's Topic: ALS Redesign Timeline Proposal

The topic for August's ALS Redesign Expert Panel meeting focused on the proposed timeline for the National Registry's ALS Redesign initiative. Before diving into the proposed timeline, an orientation about the process for developing and testing performance scenarios and items for the new ALS examination launch was provided to the panel.

The Examinations Content Manager, Dr. Paul Rosenberger, provided an overview of building performance scenarios and items that are in line with the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. This process described the research, scenario development, item development, refinement, review, and piloting of this content to be utilized for future integration into upcoming ALS examinations. Subject Matter Expert (SME) roles, influences, and contributions were identified during the process. Director of Psychometrics and Analytics, Dr. Mihaiela Gugiu, discussed with the panel the parameters her team works with during the development of the new ALS examination, assumptions such as examination length and content were considered, as well as the explanation behind the dates of the updated timeline.

The National Registry's process for determining the proposed timeline has been methodical and collaborative with SMEs and the EMS community. There has been careful prioritization of the item and examination development, which required sufficient time to collect and use data to measure and adjust. It's crucial that the National Registry delivers a psychometrically sound and fair examination for all candidates.

Stakeholders and the EMS community are at the forefront of the timeline decisions. The National Registry's Stakeholder Partnerships team continues to foster support by supporting States with updates and pertinent information for a minimal impact. The proposal for this updated timeline will allow for stakeholders, programs, and clinicians to prepare and adapt to the impending changes. The proposed updated timeline for the ALS Redesign is as follows and subject to change as data and feedback are collected:

- September 1, 2022: Begin testing performance items
- July 1, 2024: Launch new ALS Examination
- July 1, 2024: Start phasing out the Psychomotor examination
- June 30, 2025: End of Psychomotor examination

Current State and Research

Director of Psychometrics and Analytics, Dr. Mihaiela Gugiu provided insight about the parameters, or what needs to be considered, for building the foundation of the new ALS examination in order for it to be psychometrically sound, valid, reliable while meeting *the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* and NCCA guidelines. Dr. Gugiu addressed that the examination length will be supported by data while following examination standards and specifications. The performance items developed and piloted

measure clinical judgement, whereas the cognitive items measure the other domains present on the current ALS cognitive examination.

The Consensus

The National Registry's Drs. Gugiu and Rosenberger shared important insight into the process behind developing and testing the examination items for the launch of the new ALS examination and its influence on the updated ALS Redesign timeline.

Upon reviewing the timeline, the panel feedback was positive and supportive. It was understood the steps needed to take place to launch an examination that is psychometrically sound, valid, and reliable. The EMS community is eager to move forward with the transition of sunsetting the psychomotor examination while launching the new ALS examination that will include performance items. As progress continues to be made with the ALS Redesign initiative, much of that progress is attributed to collaboration and valuable contributions with the EMS community and the National Registry's Examinations and Psychometrics teams.