

## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Shift to the National Registry of EMTs Cognitive Testing for NEW EMTs**

### **Q: What is the difference in the testing?**

A: New Jersey is shifting from a 100-question paper-and-pencil test with a fixed passing score to a computer adapted-test (CAT), which will ask between 60 to 120 questions, depending on your responses. A computer adaptive examination adapts to the examinee's ability level. The advantage of using CAT is that it allows for the construction of a shorter, more precise test that is individualized to each candidate's level of knowledge and skills. A passing standard, identical for all candidates at their level of certification, is used to determine whether a candidate passed or failed the cognitive exam. For more information, see: <https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/document/emt>.

### **Q: How does the NREMT testing process work?**

A: The NREMT cognitive exam is a computer adaptive test (CAT). The number of items a candidate can expect on the EMT exam will range from 60 to 120. The exam evaluates the candidate's knowledge to determine their ability to perform as a competent, entry level EMT.

### **Q: How long is the examination?**

A: Candidates will have 2 hours to complete the exam.

### **Q: What will the NREMT examination cover?**

A: The exam will cover the entire spectrum of EMS care including: Airway, Respiration & Ventilation; Cardiology & Resuscitation; Trauma; Medical; Obstetrics/Gynecology; EMS Operations. Items related to patient care are focused on adult and geriatric patients (85%) and pediatric patients (15%).

### **Q: What is NREMT's passing standard?**

A: To pass the exam, candidates must meet entry level competency. The goal is to find out if you have enough knowledge compared to the passing standard. The passing standard is defined by the ability to provide safe and effective entry level emergency medical care.

### **Q: Who is impacted by this change?**

A: This shift to using the NREMT cognitive exam ONLY applies to initial EMT students, re-entry and reciprocity applicants taking the certification exam for the first time. It has no impact at all on any currently licensed EMTs.

### **Q: What about EMT candidates who are under 18?**

A: EMT students under 18 will take the NREMT assessment exam (the term the NREMT uses for their non-certifying exam) before being issued a New Jersey provisional EMT license, but the process remains the same for them as it does for all other candidates.

### **Q: If I am under the age of 18, do I need to re-take the cognitive exam when I turn 18?**

No-not unless the EMT wants to maintain their NREMT EMT certification in addition to their NJ EMT license. As of today, NREMT is reviewing the requirement that EMT candidates who are under 18 need to re-take the NREMT cognitive exam upon turning 18 to maintain NREMT certification.

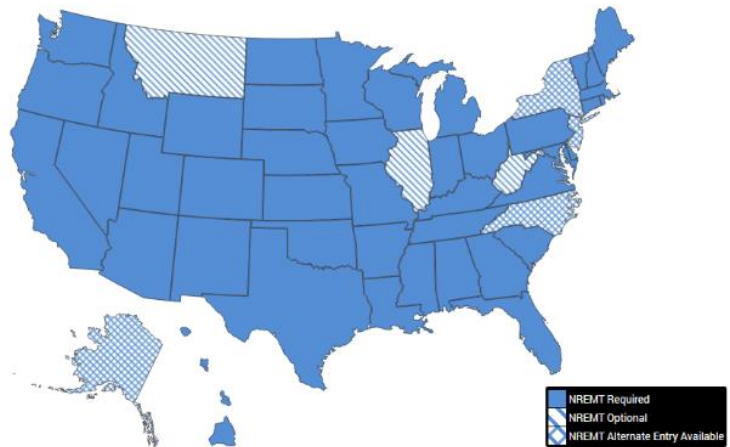
### **Q: Do I have to maintain my NREMT?**

A: Not for now. New Jersey is using NREMT certification as the entry-level requirement, with re-certification maintained through continuing education. EMTs may, but do not have to, maintain both NREMT certification and their NJ EMT license. Both are maintained through continuing education.

**Q: Why are you making this change?**

A: New Jersey Administrative Code 8:40A-6.1(a) has required that New Jersey Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) initially obtain certification by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as a prerequisite for issuing a New Jersey EMT license. Several years ago, NREMT shifted from paper-based testing to computer-based adaptive testing. When that happened, NREMT did not have enough testing sites in New Jersey to accommodate the demands for student testing across the state, therefore the state temporarily shifted to using the paper-based Atlantic EMS Council examination for EMTs, although NJ DOH OEMS has continued to require the NREMT paramedic exam for Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics and Mobile Intensive Care Nurses. Beginning in 2017, the Office of Emergency Medical Services began discussions with both the New Jersey EMS Community and NREMT to shift back to using their examination, based on several compelling reasons:

- The Atlantic EMS Council exam is not being updated and has reached the end of its useful life.
- Only three states in the Atlantic EMS Region are still utilizing the Atlantic EMS Council exam (New Jersey, North Carolina, and West Virginia).
- NREMT now has almost double the number of EMT cognitive exam testing sites in New Jersey, with no EMT Education Program more than 30 miles from a testing location.
- NREMT employs a full-time psychometrician to ensure a valid exam process, the Atlantic EMS Council exam does not, and,
- 43 states use NREMT as their EMT examination, while 3 more permit it to be used in lieu of the State exam.
- Utilizing the NREMT exam allows quicker alignment with the National EMS Scope of Practice as revisions occur; and,
- Because all states either utilize or recognize NREMT certification as a basis for licensure, it makes it significantly easier for EMTs who move to gain licensure in another state.



**Q: When will this change take effect?**

A: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

**Q: Where will the NREMT cognitive exam be held?**

A: Candidates will schedule their NREMT cognitive exam at the Pearson Vue testing centers nearest them. All EMT Education Programs statewide have a testing center located within 30 miles. Testing centers can be found at <https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt>.

**Q: Is there a fee for NREMT cognitive exam?**

A: Volunteer EMT candidates covered by the EMS Training Fund will have their **first** NREMT cognitive exam attempt paid for by the EMS Training Fund. The fee for non-volunteer EMT candidates and any subsequent attempts by volunteer EMT candidates is currently \$80.

**Q: What’s the content on the NREMT cognitive exam?**

A: The table below indicates what percent of the test will focus on each topic area.

Content Area	Percent of Exam	Adult / Pediatric Mix
Airway, Respiration & Ventilation	18%-22%	85% Adult; 15% Pediatric
Cardiology & Resuscitation	20%-24%	85% Adult; 15% Pediatric
Trauma	14%-18%	85% Adult; 15% Pediatric
Medical; Obstetrics & Gynecology	27%-31%	85% Adult; 15% Pediatric
EMS Operations	10%-14%	N/A

**Q: What is the passing score for the NREMT cognitive exam?**

A: The NREMT cognitive exam is a pass/fail exam. The minimum passing standard is set by the National Registry Board of Directors and reviewed at least every three years. This Board action is based on the recommendation from a panel of experts and providers from the EMS community. The panel is facilitated by psychometricians - experts in testing. The panel uses a variety of recognized methods (such as the Angoff method) to assess how a minimally competent provider would respond to examination items. These are combined to form a recommendation on the minimum passing standard for the exam. The Board considers this recommendation and the impact on the community to set the minimum passing standard.

**Q: What happens after I pass the NREMT cognitive exam?**

A: Once you are certified by NREMT, New Jersey will automatically generate your EMT license and send it to you within 6-8 weeks.