

NREMT offers recertification electronically

EMS personnel who are certified by the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) can recertify entirely online, but the process requires that the employer (agency) be registered.

The one-time process for an agency to register takes only a few minutes and must be completed by an approved training officer. Complete instructions are on the home page of the NREMT website. Online recertification provides a number of time-saving benefits for the agency, including reduced paperwork, a centralized data management for continuing education hours, centralized

approval for continuing education hours, electronic verification and electronic transfer of information to an agency's medical director for approval.

For EMS personnel, electronic recertification also provides time-saving benefits, including 'banking' continuing education hours electronically throughout the certification period. In addition, documentation is 'signed' electronically by the training officer and the medical director and is submitted electronically. EMS providers can find complete details about online recertification at www.nremt.org.

Accreditation rule effective

EMS rule 157.32 of the Texas Administrative Code, the education rule, went into effect August 16. Beginning January 1, 2013, all education programs will be required to teach the new education standards from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In addition, all paramedic programs must be accredited or have a letter of review from CoAEMSP in order to offer paramedic courses. The rule is on the website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/TexAdminCode.shtm.

GETAC committee applications accepted through September 30

Interested in serving on a GETAC committee? You have until midnight on September 30 to get your application in to DSHS. Most of the committees have openings. New committee members will be notified in early November and will attend a committee orientation during the GETAC meetings held at Texas EMS Conference. Go to News/Features section of our website, www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems, for more information.

Correction

On question number 10 of the preeclampsia continuing education test in the July/August 2012 issue, answer "B" should have read "Stage of invasion." Because of the confusion, both "B" and "A" (Stage of extroversion) were given credit as correct answers.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *I'm a Texas-certified EMT-Basic, and I just finished paramedic school. Can I submit the DSHS Initial EMS Paramedic application electronically?*

A: No, unfortunately, upgrades in certification, such as EMT to EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Intermediate to Paramedic, cannot be submitted electronically at this time. You will need to print, complete and mail the DSHS Initial EMS paper application and fee to the address at the top of the first page. Here is a link to the DSHS Initial EMS paper application: www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/formsresources.shtm#Initial. Contact the EMS Certification office if you have any questions at 512-834-6734.

GETAC report

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council and committees met August 15-17 in Austin. The council presented reviewed parts of the strategic plan, including a options for a revised GETAC meeting schedule. Public comment will be taken in November. The schedule options to be discussed in November are on the website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/GETACAugust2012Documents.shtm under additional documents for the council.