

The Office of EMS and Trauma is working with the National Registry on a project that will allow individuals that have been Nationally Registered in the past to regain and maintain their certifications. National Registry certification will be a requirement for state license renewal beginning in 2012. The process will basically work as follows:

1. 2012 - Any EMT that ever held a National Registry certification will simply send their application and fee to the Registry with his/her social security number and proof of current state licensure, **or**;
2012 - Any EMT that ever held a National Registry certification will simply send their application and fee to the Registry with his/her old National Registry number and proof of current state license.
2. The Registry will send the individual a current Registry card. **The applicant would not be required to challenge the registry again.** The individual will then send a completed state license renewal application, licensure fee, copy of his/her Registry card, and proof of State Protocols to obtain a state license. The process will be the same for the 2013 licensure cycle.
3. Beginning in 2014, all EMTs in Alabama (*excluding those for whom National Registry certification was not a requirement for licensure in the past) will have to meet the biennial recertification requirements of National Registry to be eligible for re-licensure.

*** If an EMT was licensed before the Requirement of National Registry certification, he/she will not be required to obtain/maintain National Registry certification and will renew as done in the past.**

The EMS profession is moving toward having a nationwide standard for certification. Currently 45 states use the National Registry to certify EMTs, and 49 states use it for reciprocity. This process will enhance the state's ability to validate the meeting of national standards by individual EMTs, streamline the national credentialing system for disaster response, and provide an online recertification system.

Beginning in 2014, the recertification process will have three educational components and will tailor the training requirements for services and the individual. The continuing educational process will include the following components:

1. National - changes in the national scope of practice, required reading on industry issues, National Standards (AHA), assessment guide results and low frequency/high criticality.
2. Local - QA/QI issues and NEMSIS data.
3. Individual- menu of requirements based on assessment guide outcomes.

The assessment guide is an online exam (100 questions) taken by the individual, with no cost to the individual. Each applicant receives his/her results immediately. The exam identifies the

applicants' areas of deficiency, and applicants can concentrate their continuing education in those areas during the two year period. All of the above can be conducted in-house.

During the planning stages for this change, I have heard the following concerns stemming from three different areas, and I would like to address those concerns.

1. **Too many hours for continuing education:** The Con-Ed requirement for EMTs in the State of Alabama will be 72 hours every two years. Most EMS agencies in Alabama train at this level currently. EMS is an allied healthcare profession and people's lives depend on the EMT's knowledge. The medical skill for an EMT has changed over the past ten years and continues to evolve. EMTs must keep their skills and protocols updated. For a life saving profession, 72 hours of continuing education every two years is hardly too rigorous.
2. **Cost:** The cost for an ALS EMT will be an additional \$20 every other year and \$15 every other year for a BLS level. The cost for an individual EMT license or a provider license in Alabama is lower than any other state surrounding Alabama. In addition, the cost for an individual EMT license or a provider license in Alabama is lower than most other professions' licensure fees within the state. Below you will see the fee schedules for other states and other professions within this state.

Schedules for licensing fees for other states surrounding Alabama:

Individual License Fees	Ala	FL	GA	LA	MS	TN
Basic Renewal	\$10	\$20	\$75	\$25	\$35	\$65
Intermediate Renewal	\$10	N/A	\$75	\$35	\$35	\$65
Paramedic Renewal	\$10	\$45	\$70	\$45	\$35	\$75
Provider License Fees						
Ground						
Initial	\$25	\$1,375	\$2,400	\$150	\$500	\$5,000
Renewal	\$25	\$1,375	\$2,400	\$100	\$500	\$500
Per Vehicle	\$0	\$25	\$1,400	\$75	\$250	\$250
Air Medical						
Initial	\$25	\$1,375	\$2,400	\$150	\$500	\$10,000
Renewal	\$25	\$1,375	\$2,400	\$100	\$500	\$5,000
Per Air Craft	\$0	\$25	\$1,400	\$75	\$250	N/A

Schedules for licensing fees for other professions in Alabama:

<u>Name of Profession</u>	<u>Renewal Cycle</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Certified Water Operator	3 years	\$45
Cosmetology	2 years	\$80
Dental Hygienist	1 year	\$65
Dietitian	2 years	\$125
Funeral Embalmer	1 year	\$60
Funeral Director	1 year	\$50
Insurance Adjuster	2 years	\$80
Insurance Agent	2 years	\$40
Massage Therapist	2 years	\$100
Nursing	2 years	\$75
Plumber (Apprentice)	1 year	\$10
Plumber (Master)	1 year	\$125
Non-Professional License		
Hunting	1 year	\$24
Fishing	1 year	\$12

As a result of this project, EMS in Alabama and all other states in the nation will move closer to having the level of professionalism comparable to the other allied health care professions such as nursing, physical therapy, radiology, etc. From the phone calls and emails I have received over the past 18 months, I am certain that a large majority of those in EMS are in support of this initiative, and I ask for your support in making this very important initiative a reality.