OUR MISSION
The National Registry’s mission is to provide a valid, uniform process to assess the knowledge and skills required for competent practice by EMS professionals throughout their careers, and to maintain a registry of certification status.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTRY?
The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians is the nation’s emergency medical services (EMS) certification organization. The National Registry is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that maintains the integrity of the EMS profession and protects the public through a nationally accredited, scientifically validated certification process that state regulators, employers, educators and the public can trust to ensure the competency of EMS providers caring for their communities.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF NATIONAL REGISTRY CERTIFICATION?
National Registry certification demonstrates that EMS professionals have met and continue to meet rigorous national standards. It shows employers that you have a strong level of competence and that you are continually learning. It also provides EMS professionals with more flexibility, often making it easier to find employment and advance their careers.

While each state varies in its recognition of National Registry certification across the four levels of EMS providers (EMR, EMT, AEMT and paramedic), 46 states require National Registry certification for at least one of the levels. National Registry certification also aligns the EMS profession with other health professions in the U.S., most of which have at least one national certifying body.

HOW DOES THE NATIONAL REGISTRY ADVANCE THE EMS PROFESSION?
A national certifying body is a key element in the development and evolution of the EMS profession as a valuable member of the healthcare community. Its role in ensuring standards of knowledge and education provides a basis for measurement of the profession and its members, similar to those used in other healthcare professions.

HOW DO STATES USE THE NATIONAL REGISTRY?
The National Registry is recognized in every state in the U.S., and 46 states use certification as a basis for licensure. States that don’t use National Registry certification develop their own standards, which can sometimes lead to inconsistency.

The National Registry partners with states, helping them carry out their duties by certifying and determining the competency of EMS professionals. With more than 50 staff members, many of whom are experts in assessments and certification, the National Registry offers states assurance while eliminating the need for each state to expend resources developing, validating and implementing certification processes.
HOW ARE NATIONAL REGISTRY EXAMS DEVELOPED?

The National Registry’s goal is to ensure that each candidate receives a fair opportunity to demonstrate his or her knowledge and skills. To maintain this value, the National Registry brings together subject matter experts, including EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs and paramedics, medical directors, educators and state EMS officials to write and review questions and scenarios. There are procedures in place to review, pilot and analyze questions before they become part of an exam.

The examinations are written by EMS professionals for EMS professionals. Passing scores and standards are determined by EMS professionals, not by the National Registry staff. The EMS professionals writing and reviewing items, as well as setting the passing standards for exams, come from a variety of backgrounds and programs. The National Registry strives to ensure that all groups of subject matter experts are representative of the EMS profession we serve.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE NATIONAL REGISTRY DO?

The National Registry has contributed to EMS for many years, both through its own research department and by working with and supporting researchers from other organizations. This research, on topics ranging from EMS education to provider burn-out to clinical knowledge, helps to advance the profession and keep patients and providers safe. Find out more about the National Registry’s research efforts and its EMS research fellowship online.

HOW CAN I HELP DEVELOP AND UPDATE NATIONAL REGISTRY EXAMS?

The National Registry invites everyone to become part of that process. It’s valuable to see how test development works, but it is equally valuable to say that you had a role in developing the exams. Contributions from EMS providers across the country help make the National Registry exams timely, relevant and effective ways of assuring EMS clinicians’ competency.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Specific requirements for each National Registry certification level can be found online at the following links. This includes information for each level’s respective certification process, cognitive and psychomotor exams, and recertification requirements.

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Advanced EMT (AEMT)
- Paramedic

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