

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES **OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 17-04**

Date: March 29, 2017

To: All Connecticut certified EMS Instructors
From: Raffaella Coler, RN, MEd, Paramedic
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services
Terry DeVito, Ed.D, RN, LP, EMSI, CHCQM
Coordinator, EMS Training & Education
Re: New Exam rollout update

It has been two months since OEMS has deployed the updated EMR/EMT initial and renewal exams. I would like to take the opportunity to share the following update in response to questions that have arisen:

1. The exam:
 - a. All versions of the exams are valid and reliable exams. They were developed appropriately and address the workforce level of the EMS providers' job. All questions were developed by a project team that was comprised of CT EMS providers from across the state and then vetted through a rigorous process to validate them.
 - b. Questions were developed based on the 2009 National Education Standards and the 2007 EMS Scope of Practice Model, supported/referenced to current educational resources such as textbooks and transition materials.
 - c. A professional test construction organization (I/O Solutions) worked with the project team to ensure that the questions meet the current roles and responsibilities of the EMR and EMT.
 - i. There are some typo's that were not caught before the exams were printed, but I am well aware of them all and we have adjusted the answer keys so that no candidates' score is negatively affected.
 - ii. Item analysis information regarding sections/topics cannot be divided out right now. However, we are working on that ability with our present software.
2. From February 1st to March 23, 2017:
 - a. Five hundred and twenty-four (524) EMR's took the recertification exam. Five hundred and nine (509) passed, which is a ninety-seven percent (97%) pass rate.



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- b. Seven hundred and seventy-one (771) EMT's took the recertification exam, six hundred and twelve (612) passed which is a seventy-nine percent (79%) pass rate.
 - c. Continual monitoring will take place and I am contacting instructors on an individual basis based on overall scores
 - i. The first-time pass/fail rates are not that out of the ordinary for a licensing/certification exam. We cannot compare these scores to what we had in the past. The old exams were at least 15 to 20 years old
- 3. Course content presented in the classrooms needs to align with National Education Standards and Scope of Practice Model. Questions need to be answered according to national Standards. If local protocol is covered in class, (which is OK to do) instructors need to advise students of this and remind them that local protocols are not part of these exams.
 - a. Instructors should be referring to the EMS Gap Analysis and 2009 Education Standards to help determine what to present in the refresher classes
 - b. Here are the links to these documents:
 - i. Gap Analysis:
http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/2009NAS_EMSOGapAnalysisTemplate.pdf
 - ii. Ed Standards:
<http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/FinalEducationAgenda.pdf>
 - iii. Scope of Practice:
http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/EMS_Feb_07_PMS314SOP.pdf
- 4. Most of the exam questions are written at an application level of Blooms taxonomy. Students may need assistance with the techniques of answering this type of question. If they don't practice with scenario based questions, they could read into the question and ultimately answer incorrectly. As you are aware utilizing scenario based questions is the only way to analyze critical thinking in this type of a testing environment.
 - a. There is a huge resource of information on the internet regarding test-taking strategies. It would be well worth the effort to look into these and to share the information with your students.

Should the need arise for a student to retest, the student should be directed to contact the regional coordinators via email:

Jean Speck for Region five (5): jean.speck@ct.gov

Judi Reynolds for Regions one through four (1-4): judith.reynolds@ct.gov

They will give the students dates and locations for additional sites where they can retest.

I will continue to monitor our progress and report back as needed. I am available for any feedback by phone or email.

Thank you for all your hard work and patience as we continue to move our educational process in a way that will meet the needs of our future EMS care providers and the patients they serve.