



EMS Information Bulletin 2013-009

DATE: August 28, 2013

SUBJECT: **Cognitive Examination Acknowledgement Form**

TO: EMS Agency Directors
EMS Education Institutes

THRU: Richard L. Gibbons, Director
Bureau of EMS

FROM: John Englert
EMS Program Specialist

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JE', located below the name John Englert.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Gibbons', located below the name Richard L. Gibbons.

As part of assuring high-quality education and measureable national level competency, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has adopted the National EMS Education Standards and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Examination process effective as of January 1, 2013. That decision includes the planned implementation of cognitive (knowledge) computer based testing (CBT) for all EMS Provider Certification Examinations effective January 1, 2014.

Attached please find the Cognitive Examination Acknowledgment Form for utilization during all EMS Provider Certification Courses currently being offered and/or planned for completion during the 2013 calendar year, throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All forms must be completed and filed within the Regional EMS Council Office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Council in the event of any questions.

Cognitive Examination Acknowledgement Form

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted the Emergency Medical Services System Act, No. 2009-37, on August 18, 2009. As part of assuring high-quality education and measurable national level competency, the Commonwealth adopted the National EMS Education Standards and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination process effective as of January 2013. This is a two part change with respect to the psychomotor (skills) testing and the cognitive (knowledge) exams, which once fully implemented will result in all EMS Provider Certification Courses and all EMS Examinations being modeled after the National EMS Education Standards.

Any student successfully completing an EMS provider certification course ending after January 1, 2013 and meeting any and all other Pennsylvania requirements for testing, is eligible to take the psychomotor exam based upon the NREMT examination process as adopted by Pennsylvania. At present, upon successful completion of the psychomotor exam, you will be eligible to attempt the existing Pennsylvania Bureau of EMS Cognitive Exam. **HOWEVER**, this exam will only be available until December 31, 2013. ANY cognitive exams attempted on or after January 1, 2014 **WILL BE** the NREMT Computer Based Cognitive Exam. This requirement is effective regardless of when your course was started or is completed, or whether you are attempting the exam for the first time or taking a retest. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** and **NO EXTENSIONS** to this process.

To attempt an NREMT Cognitive Exam, you must visit www.nremt.org, create a profile, and submit any required fees directly to the NREMT. These fees are set by the NREMT and are the direct responsibility of the student. You must then contact your Regional EMS Council to obtain verification of course completion.

Once these steps have been completed, you must visit <http://www.pearsonvue.com/> to create an individual account with Pearson Vue Testing Centers. Pearson Vue is an independent professional organization that has contracted with the NREMT to provide computer based testing (CBT) to exam candidates. You will be able to schedule an exam date and location using the Pearson Vue account.

Upon completion of your computer based examination, your results will be forwarded to the PA Department of Health Bureau of EMS and mailed to you by the local Regional EMS Council. Candidates under 18 years of age achieving a successful passing examination score will be issued Pennsylvania certification, and will be eligible for NREMT certification utilizing those same exam results upon reaching 18 years of age, provided it is within one (1) year of successful exam completion date. In the event that you have not achieved a passing score on the examination, any further attempts must be coordinated by the student through the Pearson Vue Testing Centers.

By affixing my signature below, I am acknowledging that I have received the above information regarding the process changes to the examination and that any questions that I had about this process have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that any cognitive examinations I attempt on or after January 1, 2014 will be in accordance with the NREMT process and coordinated through Pearson Vue Testing Centers. I further acknowledge that it is my responsibility to complete the steps outlined above, including registration, scheduling, and fees payment for all cognitive exams that I attempt on or after January 1, 2014.

Student Name (Printed): _____ Signature: _____
Name of EMS Education Institute: _____ Date: _____

08/2013