



EMS Information Bulletin 2023-23

DATE: December 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Updated Memorandum and Assumption of Risk Agreement for
EMR and EMT examinations

TO: PA EMS Agencies
PA EMS Agency Medical Directors
PA EMS Regional Educational Coordinators
PA Regional EMS Directors
PA EMS Educational Institutes
PA EMS Instructors

FROM: Timothy J. Reitz, MS, NRP, NCEE
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Reitz', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Attached is an updated Memorandum and Assumption of Risk Agreement (Agreement) for EMR and EMT examinations. This Agreement reflects the changes identified in [IB 2020-28](#) Changes to BLS Psychomotor Examination.

This Agreement further clarifies the testing process and the requirements as outlined in the EMS Act §8113 (e) Examinations. This form and process will be utilized on courses and EMR/EMT exams completed after January 1, 2024.

The language in this Agreement is reflected in the EMS Registry as a downloadable document. EMS Educational Institutes and Regional EMS Councils are encouraged to review this with students prior to starting the psychomotor exam.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at timreitz@pa.gov

EMR / EMT MEMORANDUM AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

The Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification examination consists of two (2) parts: a psychomotor, or practical examination and a cognitive, or computer-based examination. The psychomotor examination consists of six (6) stations for the EMR and seven (7) stations for the EMT. You will be scored on your ability to perform specific skills in each station required for your certification. You will be given hypothetical situations. You will be scored individually.

There are six (6) scoring areas for the psychomotor EMR examination, which are:

1. Patient Assessment and Management of the Medical Patient
2. Patient Assessment and Management of the Trauma Patient
3. BVM Ventilation of an Apneic Adult Patient
4. Oxygen Administration by Non-Rebreather Mask
5. Cardiac Arrest Management/AED
6. Bleeding Control/Shock Management

There are seven (7) scoring areas for the psychomotor EMT examination, which are the six (6) listed above and:

7. Random EMT Skill – ONE (1) of the following:
 - a. Long Bone Immobilization
 - b. Joint Immobilization

The skills performed will be within your scope of practice for the level of certification you are seeking. You will enter the designated station and will be provided verbal directions for performing each skill. You will be evaluated on those skills as performed and verbalized. You are required to perform “hands-on” assessments that are correct, timely, and appropriate function(s) of all skills. Same-day retesting opportunities are at the discretion of the examination administrator and will be based upon the number of candidates and evaluators/skill examiners at the site as well as the number of skill stations that candidates are initially successful completing.

You must take the required examinations, psychomotor and cognitive, within 12 months of course completion. A total of six (6) examination attempts are allowed and must be completed within two (2) years of successful completion of the certification class. After three (3) failed examination attempts, the candidate must successfully complete one (1) of the following to become eligible for the next three (3) examination attempts:

- 1) An approved certification program beginning after the third attempt.
- 2) A “hands-on” remedial course at the appropriate EMS provider level approved by the Department of Health.
 - a) Must be taught by either a PA EMS agency medical director of a licensed PA EMS agency OR a PA certified prehospital emergency medical services physician of a licensed PA EMS agency OR a PA recognized EMS Instructor-Trainer OR a PA certified EMS Instructor.
 - b) After the completed remediation form has been received by the Regional EMS Council, the candidate can schedule retest opportunities.

If all six (6) attempts are unsuccessful, then the candidate will be required to retake an approved certification program.

The examination result is only provided as a Pass or Fail. To successfully complete the psychomotor portion of the

examination, a passing score must be attained in all skill stations. Any skill stations receiving a failing score must be retested. The retest may or may not be held on the same day as the original examination.

The examination is to provide you with a fair and unbiased evaluation. You are not permitted to discuss the examination with any other candidates before, during, or after your skills station rotation. If you are found to be exchanging information with anyone during your psychomotor examination, you will be dismissed from the examination. Upon dismissal your results will be invalidated and will count as one (1) of the six (6) examination attempts permitted to attain EMS certification.

The skill stations are to evaluate your ability to correctly perform care for the patient in a safe manner during the examination process.

At each station, an Evaluator/Skill Examiner:

- 1) Will greet you.
- 2) Introduce themselves.
- 3) Give you further instructions.

Once you encounter the patient, the Evaluator/Skill Examiner may have updated information for you to consider and will provide it if, and when, appropriate. The Evaluator/Skill Examiner will respond as medical command or as the incoming EMS unit ONLY if the scenario requires a communication element. The Evaluator/Skill Examiner will not be permitted to answer questions once the scenario begins.

You may **not** inquire as to the results of your examination by skill station or as a whole. The Evaluators/Skill Examiners are **not** permitted to discuss with you whether you are successful or unsuccessful.

The undersigned assumes all responsibility for all risk of damage or injury that may occur to the undersigned while attending or participating in the psychomotor examinations. In consideration of being accepted as a participant in such psychomotor examinations, the undersigned hereby releases, discharges, and holds harmless the Regional EMS Council and any associated organizations and successors and their owners, employees, and agents from all claims, demands, rights of causes of action, present and future, whether known, anticipated, or unanticipated, and resulting from or arising out of, or incident to, the undersigned's attendance at, participation in or intended participation in psychomotor (practical) examinations.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND SIGNED THE AFORESAID MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT.

Candidate Printed Name

Candidate Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Name of EMS Educational Institute