



EMS Information Bulletin 2020-05

DATE: March 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Issued Regulatory Exceptions to the Lapse of Registration Process

TO: All PA EMS Stakeholders

FROM: Dylan Ferguson, Director
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dylan J. Ferguson', written over the printed name in the 'FROM' field.

Since the inception of the current EMS regulations, 28 Pa. Code § 1023.21(e) has governed the process by which EMS providers whose certification has expired could reinstate their EMS certification.

Pursuant to the process outlined in 28 Pa. Code § 1023.21 (e), the requirements of provider reinstatement vary based on how long a provider's certification had been expired. A provider who had been expired for **two years or less** was required to complete all continuing education requirements that would have been required to re-register the certification on time, in addition to taking the written exam. If an EMS provider had been expired for **more than two years**, they were required to complete the requirements listed above in addition to successfully completing the psychomotor examination. At no juncture was it a requirement to repeat the entire EMS educational program in order to re-register an expired EMS provider certification.

Whereas, recruitment and retention of qualified EMS providers has grown increasingly difficult throughout the commonwealth, and pursuant to its regulatory authority outlined in 28 Pa. Code § 1021.4(a), (c), and (f), the Department of Health Bureau of EMS is issuing the following regulatory exceptions to 28 Pa. Code § 1023.21(e) as part of a larger strategy to re-engage EMS providers who have previously left our ranks.

We ask you to share this document widely to assist us in our mission to re-engage as many EMS providers as possible.

Individuals who wish to apply under this exception will need to submit a reinstatement application in the electronic EMS registry system. Individuals who need assistance with the application or with regaining access to their account, or who have questions or are interested in reinstating their EMS provider certification should contact their regional EMS Council for assistance.

Individuals with specific questions related to the following exceptions should contact the Bureau of EMS.

Exception 1

For a period of 18 months from the date of this Bulletin, the following regulatory exception is in effect: any EMS provider whose certification expired on or after 02/01/2010 may reinstate their EMS provider certification by completing one certification cycle worth of EMS continuing education regardless of how many cycles their certification has been expired. All continuing education utilized for this reinstatement must have occurred within the past two years preceding the application for reinstatement. As part of this continuing education, **applicants for reinstatement under this exception, must complete the most recent protocol update course. ALS practitioners must complete both the BLS and ALS protocol updates. AEMT’s must complete the AEMT transition course in addition to the BLS protocol update.** Furthermore, an applicant must have a current CPR credential from a Department of Health approved course. The listing of approved courses can be found here: [EMSIB 2018-11 State Recognized CPR Programs](#). Please note that continuing education units are not awarded for completing CPR courses. The continuing education requirements that are needed to reinstate through this provision are listed in the tables below.

Provider Certification	Number of CPC Hours Required	Total Number of Hours Required
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	12 Hours (Must include the areas and # of hours below)	16 Hours
	Airway/Respiration/Ventilation (1 hour) ** Cardiovascular (2.5 hours) ** Trauma (0.5 hours) ** Medical (3 hours) ** BLS Protocol Update Course **Completion of a traditional NREMT EMR refresher will meet these requirements	

Provider Certification	Number of CPC Hours Required	Total Number of Hours Required
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	18 Hours (Must include the areas and # of hours below)	24 Hours
	Airway/Respiration/Ventilation (1.5 hours) ** Cardiovascular (6 hours) ** Trauma (1.5 hours) ** Medical (6 hours) ** PADOH BLS Protocol Update Course **Completion of a traditional NREMT EMT refresher will meet these requirements	
Provider Certification	Number of CPC Hours Required	Total Number of Hours Required
AEMT/Paramedic PHRN/PHPE/PHP	27 Hours (Must include the areas and # of hours below)	36 Hours
	Airway/Respiration/Ventilation (3.5 hours) ** Cardiovascular (8.5 hours) ** Trauma (3 hours) ** Medical (8.5 hours) ** PADOH BLS Protocol Update Course PADOH AEMT Bridge Course (AEMT's Only) PADOH ALS Protocol Update Course (Paramedics Only) **Completion of a traditional NREMT Paramedic refresher will meet these requirements	

Individuals applying for reinstatement via this exception are not required to take the written examination or the psychomotor examination.

While not a requirement to reinstate the certification, advanced level providers and EMS agency medical directors are reminded that, pursuant to the provisions of § 8125 (b)(2) (ii), a provider at or above the advanced EMT level must undergo an assessment by an EMS agency medical director competency in the knowledge and skills an EMS provider must have to perform the skills within the providers scope of practice prior to performing as an EMS provider at the AEMT level or above.

In addition, while not required, EMS providers applying for reinstatement who expired prior to 2015 should consider taking the appropriate 2015 protocol update course, as there were significant changes in the 2015 protocols that were not readdressed in the required 2019 protocol courses.

Finally, pursuant to [EMS Information Bulletin 2018-20 Expired Providers Wanting to Reinstate at a Lower Level](#), individuals may reinstate their certification under the terms of this exception at a level lower than the certification that expired.

Exception 2

Until revoked or amended by the department, the following regulatory exception is in effect: EMS providers whose certifications have expired but have not been expired for more than one year, shall not be required to take the written examination as outlined in 28 PA Code § 1023.21(e)(1). All other requirements set forth in 28 PA Code § 1023.21(e) remain in full force and effect. Applicants utilizing the provisions of exception 2 are not required to meet the specific continuing education requirements outlined in exception 1.