Advanced EMT Program Guidance – Summer/Fall 2020

Virginia Office of EMS

May 18, 2020
Advanced EMT Program
Guidance Summer/Fall 2020

Background

Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the National Registry and the Commonwealth of Virginia ceased all National Registry certification testing as a result of due to Executive Order 51, 53 & 55. With so many unknown factors and the amount of advanced planning and commitment required to hold a National Registry test site, it was determined that this was in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of all participants.

Beginning June 2020, The Office will begin working with ALS programs and the National Registry to slowly ramp up ALS psychomotor testing in the Commonwealth once conditions on the ground permit this to happen. The ALS Testing Calendar on the OEMS website can be found at: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-national-registry-psychomotor-examination-schedule/

The following requirements must be met for all Advanced EMT programs with a begin date of from May 15, 2020 and an end date occurring before December 31, 2020.

First Class Paperwork

First Class Paperwork can be completed, if necessary, electronically through real-time web-based video or an audio only call making use of any number of currently available platforms such as WebEX, GoToMeeting, GoToWebinar or Zoom. A version of the necessary state forms required for ALS First Class Paperwork has been provided. This paperwork now makes use of Adobe Fillable forms for ease of implementation.

The Office of EMS is in the process of updating the Last Class Paperwork Packet which details the Testing procedures for ALS students. This paperwork should be completed by June 15, 2020.

Course Schedule

The Course Coordinator shall submit a detailed Course Schedule to Tracie Jones (tracie.jones@vdh.virginia.gov) as soon as possible after the course is approved. This course schedule should contain all class meeting times, dates, locations and subject matter to be covered. Tracie will maintain a copy of this schedule on file for use by OEMS staff members for unannounced visits to ensure all policies and procedures set forth in this document and in TPAM Policy T-1445 are being met.

National Registry Provisional Certification

Program shall prepare students for a National Registry psychomotor exam as normal with the understanding that it may be difficult to secure a space at an ALS Test Site through December 2020 and possibly longer. The program should make sure students understand the following about the issuance of a provisional National Registry and Virginia certification.
Advanced EMT Program
Guidance Summer/Fall 2020

Based on the fact that more than 60% of states issued a Stay-At-Home and social distancing orders during the spring 2020 peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of the National Registry approved the issuance of a provisional certification.

A provisional National Registry certification is issued when a student:

1. completes their certification program according to state or CoAEMSP requirements, and
2. successfully passes the National Registry cognitive exam.
3. When these items are completed, a provisional National Registry certification will be issued with a December 31, 2021 expiration date. The issued certification will clearly indicate the awarding of provisional certification pending completion of the psychomotor exam when successfully completed.

Provisional certifications can be converted to full certification once the COVID-19 threat is mitigated and the student takes and passes their NREMT required psychomotor exam.

Virginia will begin accepting and likewise issuing provisional certifications cards when the National Registry transmits these results to us.

The issuance of a provisional certification by the Virginia Office of EMS is not reflective that the Office is restricting provider practice. The ability for a provider to practice is solely up to the EMS Agency and the agency’s Operational Medical Director. We are issuing provisional certifications as a means of ensuring that we have a mechanism to track these providers and ensure that they complete their certification process once the COVID-19 threat is mitigated.

**Lab & Skills Sessions**

The Course Coordinator is responsible for all the requirements of the Advanced EMT program and for following TPAM Policy T-1445 as needed.

If, at any time, there is a declared State of Emergency or Public Health Emergency Executive Order prohibiting groups of 50 or less people from gathering, EMS initial certification programs shall:

A. Lab/skills and program competencies are to be conducted with the students using programmed patients and/or advanced simulation scenarios until you are comfortable that the student has satisfactorily passed.
   a. In lab/skills stations, there should be no more than three (3) persons in a room: the student and a maximum of two (2) instructors or one (1) instructor and one (1) programmed patient.
   b. Screening of all students and staff is required before ANY in-person meetings with them using form TR-900 – Student Screening Log. Maintain the screening log along with TR-06 – Course Roster.
   c. Maintain any social distancing requirements as required by the declared State of Emergency or Public Health Emergency.
d. ANY face-to-face lab/skills sessions that require being less than six (6) feet apart shall use adequate PPE to ensure all involved as protected to the highest degree possible

**Standardized Programmed Patient**

If the training site makes use of the **Standardized Programmed Patient** option, the following chart must be completed for each programmed patient contact.

A. Standardized Program Patients is defined as:
   1. The use of individuals trained to portray the roles of patients, family members or others to allow students to practice physical exam skills, history taking skills, communication skills and other exercises.
      a. Experiential Learning with a Standardized Patient
         i. Standardized Patient (SP) is a person carefully recruited and trained to take on the characteristics of a real patient thereby affording the student an opportunity to learn and to be evaluated on learned skills in a simulated clinical environment.
            (a) During an interaction with a student the SP may:
            (b) present case history in response to questioning by the student
            (c) undergo a limited physical examination at the student's direction
            (d) assist students in developing their communication and clinical skills
            (e) assist students in working through difficult emotional situations in a safe environment

B. Advanced Simulation Manikins are defined as:
   1. A realistic interactive training manikin for simulating a wide range of advanced lifesaving skills in medical emergencies.
      a. Please see [TPAM Policy T-555](#) for more details on minimum specs for Advanced Simulation Manikins.

**Hospital and Field Requirements**

Advanced EMT programs are required to meet all the standard student competencies and clinical/field requires of the program.

A. All hospital and field clinical requirements MUST be met.
   a. For Advanced EMT programs:
      i. Hospital and Field Clinical component shall comply with the [minimum hour requirements and patient competencies as defined by the Office of EMS](#).
      ii. Field team leader component shall comply with the [minimum hour requirements and patient competencies as defined by the Office of EMS](#).
ALS Certification Testing

Cognitive Exams

- Cognitive Exams – On May 12, 2020, the National Registry started offering Pearson OnVUE remotely proctored cognitive exams for Advanced EMT candidates who are unable to access testing at a Pearson Test Center due to lack of available seats, they can begin using Pearson OnVUE immediately. Please direct your candidates to learn more about Pearson OnVUE Remote Proctored Exams by visiting: https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt/onvue
  - Pearson OnVUE remote proctoring will be temporary, however the National Registry is planning to implement a more permanent remote proctoring solution in 2021.
  - Once a candidate sits for and passes the National Registry Cognitive Exam, they will be issued a provisional National Registry and provisional Virginia certification.
  - The candidate will have to complete and pass their National Registry psychomotor exam before full National Registry and Virginia certification will be issued.
  - Provisional certifications can be converted to full certification once the COVID-19 threat is mitigated and the student takes and passes their NREMT required psychomotor exam.
  - An online locator tool to enable candidates to search for open cognitive examination seats without the need for an Authorization To Test (ATT) letter. https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/registration/SelectExamPage/NREMT?conversationId=1218760

Psychomotor Exam

- The Office will begin working with Virginia based ALS programs and the National Registry to slowly ramp up ALS psychomotor testing in the Commonwealth once conditions on the ground permit this to happen. The ALS Testing Calendar on the OEMS website can be found at: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-national-registry-psychomotor-examination-schedule/
- Questions? Please contact Debbie Akers at deborah.t.akers@vdh.virginia.gov.