

Chad Blosser

From: Chad Blosser
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 7:02 PM
To: Chad Blosser
Cc: Deborah Akers; Gary Brown; 'Owens, Karen'
Subject: COVID-19 Update #16 for EMS Educators

This is a blanket e-mail message to all certified Education Coordinators and ALS Coordinators.

Dear Educator,

Good evening and happy New Year from the ACE Division! I have decided to start this update with a couple of pertinent quotes and a plea for help.

- *“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary.” – Jim Rohn*
- *“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss*
- *“Never put off till tomorrow the [OEMS update] you can read today.” – Holbrook Jackson*

Since mid-2019, Debbie and I have endeavored to work seamlessly as a team—though we do each have our areas of specialty—to ensure that the Accreditation, Certification & Education Division is open, available, transparent and above all else proactive, not reactive. Regretfully, what we are finding is that no matter how much information we share or regardless of the method of our communication, many of the 700 certified Education Coordinators are simply are not taking to the time to read, digest and retain the information we are sharing.

We know you are busy, so are we. We know things are changing almost daily during the pandemic, however this is beyond our control.

As a certified Education Coordinator, it is your responsibility to keep up with any and all changes to the OEMS Regulations, Training Program Administration Manual and other guidance issued by the Office, in this case specifically relating to EMS training.

Presently, Debbie and I are spending between 30-40% of our day answering questions from educators who should know the answer (or how to find it) and/or directing educators to a resource published on the ACE Division website. We are two of five individuals in this Division who handle greater than 37,000 providers, 700 educators, 7000 students annually and hundreds if not thousands of emails and telephone calls which come into our Division weekly. Debbie and I pride ourselves on providing quality customer service and prompt response to the needs of these individuals, but it is becoming more difficult to do so due to the increased demands from our educators.

The ACE Division relies on you, our certified EC’s to be an extension of this Division—an expert in all things EMS education related. Since the early 2000’s, when you attended your EC institute, OEMS staff told you that you would become the “local expert” on all matters with regard to EMS education. Your agencies, regions and providers look up to you and see you as experts—someone with all the answers or the ability to get the correct answer.

It’s not that we do not want to hear from you, we do! And by all means, we need to hear from you when there are important issues, questions or concerns that need to be addressed, but we need to come to a happy medium where educators take responsibility for reading, digesting and retaining the information we are sharing so that we can direct our attention to the 44,000 other providers and students that are also seeking answers.

Now for today's updates:

16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmarking

The Office just published the **16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmarking** for January 2021. The **16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmark** is used by the Office of EMS to compare Education Coordinators conducting like programs in contrast to one another.

This tool is used to by the Office of EMS to determine which programs are eligible for funding through the Virginia EMS Scholarship Program and to determine which Education Coordinators in the Commonwealth can serve as mentors for the Education Coordinator certification program.

*Note: We did not update the **16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmark** data last July due to issues with courses that were delayed in finishing due to the declared COVID-19 pandemic.*

More information can be found at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/program-rankings-based-on-16th-percentile-peer-to-peer-benchmarking/>

National Registry Website

The National Registry just updated their website. It looks and functions very differently from past versions. If you had bookmarks to various pages on www.nremt.org, you may want to take some time to familiarize yourself with the new site and update those book marks so you are not struggling to locate information you need at the last minute.

REGULATORY REMINDER: 12VAC5-31-1439. Verification of student course completion.

This is a reminder to educators that **all students must be provided a disposition upon course end date** having been reached.

- BLS students must complete all requirements within 180 days of the announced course end date or they will forfeit their opportunity to test from that program.
- ALS students have 180 days or must be enrolled in a new course to continue their path toward certification.

NREMT Provisional Certifications

The issuance of provisional certifications by NREMT was extended to June 30, 2021. ***All provisional certificates will expire on December 31, 2021.***

Important Information

- National Registry Provisional Certifications will continue to be issued until June 30, 2021.
- Provisional certification will be automatically assigned to any candidate that;
 - Completes an educational program at the EMR, EMT, AEMT or Paramedic level, and
 - Successfully passes the National Registry's cognitive (computer-based) examination.
- Provisional certification is a National Registry certification but is not the same as being fully Nationally Registered.
- The path to convert a provisional certification to full Nationally Registry certification only requires successful completion of the psychomotor examination.
- Provisional Certifications will remain valid through the end of next year – December 31, 2021; or until an EMS provider passes the psychomotor examination before the expiration date.
- Please check with your State EMS Office for state rules on using provisional certifications for licensure or authorization to practice.

VERY Important Information

- All National Registry provisionally certified candidates have until December 31, 2021; or until an EMS provider passes the psychomotor examination before the expiration date.
- ANY PROVIDER with a National Registry and Virginia provisional certification should begin planning now to schedule and complete their NREMT psychomotor examination in order to convert their provisional certification to a full certification.
- Any Virginia EMS provider with a provisional certification as of January 1, 2022 will be reported to the Division of Regulation & Compliance and their provisional certification will be revoked immediately for failing to follow through with established NREMT and OEMS policies.

National Registry & OEMS Data Exchange

The National Registry is currently experiencing an issue with the processing of the BLS psychomotor results forwarded to them by Virginia after the students have been marked as passed in the CSDR. Their IT Team is working on a resolution but testing candidates—to include EMR and EMT candidates—will likely receive a provisional certification from the National Registry.

PLEASE NOTE: *Virginia does not issue provisional certifications for EMR and EMT candidates. Full certification will be issued by Virginia and their full NR certification will be issued when the current IT situation is resolved.*

Training & Certification Committee Elections for the 2021-2023 Term

Elections were held earlier this month for the three open spots on the Training & Certification Committee. Results were sent to TCC Chairperson Dr. Jason Ferguson and he has confirmed the election results. Appointments are as follows:

- Reappointment of **Brian McIntosh** as the representative of all Virginia Education Coordinators – Term Expires 2023
- Reappointment of **Bill Akers** as the representative of Virginia Community College EMS Programs – Term Expires 2023
- Reappointment of **Craig Evans** as the representative of the Regional Council Directors Group – Term Expires 2023.

Congrats to each of these individuals!

WASP CE Scanner Pickup

In early December 2020, ACE Division staff toured the Commonwealth meeting educators in their communities to distribute the new WASP CE Barcode scanners. Requirements to be eligible to receive a scanner are:

1. You must be a certified Education Coordinator or endorsed ALS Coordinator with a current card. If you are in reentry, you will not be able to obtain a scanner.

Now that the bulk of the distribution is completed, we are making three different options available to those who were unable to meet us in person. Please click the link below to see how you can obtain your scanner.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/wasp-ce-scanner-distribution-for-education-coordinators/>

ACE Division Website Update

We have been slowly updating the ACE Division website to make it more user friendly and to try and ensure users are being directed to the information they are seeking more quickly.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please forward them to Chad Blosser (chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov). Please note, we do have restrictions placed on us by the Virginia Department of Health, so not all suggestions will be able to be incorporated.

National Registry Recert 2.0 for 2021

As a reminder, please have providers use the [Guide to Completing National Registry Recertification 2.0 Application](#) when completing their NR recertification and they should make sure to choose the 'Recertify Me' option in their Virginia EMS Portal after being notified of their NR recertification in order to keep their Virginia and National Registry certifications in sync.

National Registry Audits

The National Registry will be contacting Debbie Akers for any provider who has been selected for audit. If the CE reports are not aligned, Debbie will not be able to verify their recertification eligibility and they will need to be prepared to produce the documentation for National Registry.

This is one of the key benefits to making use of the [Guide to Completing National Registry Recertification 2.0 Application](#) which has been developed by OEMS and approved by National Registry to assist Virginia providers who are certified with National Registry to complete their recertification application based on the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP).

Thank you for all you do. We appreciate each of you for your dedication to Virginia's EMS System!

Best,

Chad

Chad Blosser | Education Program Manager | Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services | Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education | 1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23059 | 804.888.9124 (p) | 804.371.3409 (f) | chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov | www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Office of EMS is teleworking and not available in the office. We continue to monitor the ongoing situation regarding the spread of COVID-19. For more information and updates on COVID-19 please visit the link below: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>.

Please let us know how we are doing by [clicking here](#) to complete a short customer experience survey.

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