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From: Blosser, Chad (VDH) <Chad.Blosser@vdh.virginia.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 8:47 PM
To: Blosser, Chad (VDH)
Subject: Educator Update - December 31, 2022

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

Dear Educators,

Good evening and Happy New Year! Here are several reminders/updates for educators as we move into 2023 and Virginia fully adopts the 2021 NEMSES document.

National Registry Update on Technology Enhanced Items in ALS Exams

The National Registry will debut three new item types, referred to as Technology Enhanced Items (TEIs) in the testing industry, on the ALS examinations beginning in late January 2023. These new items aim to create a more authentic, field-related, and engaging testing experience for AEMT and Paramedic candidates. They simply use innovative computer technology to ask an examination question that collects more information than a standard multiple-choice response.

While our current ALS examination has featured a TEI that performs as a multiple-response item, we will debut three new item types:

1. Build list
2. Drag and drop
3. Option/check box

If you are interested in interacting with TEIs, click [here](#). These items will assist us in testing clinical judgment, as they provide a deeper understanding of the candidate's depth of knowledge of a particular topic. The National Registry will continue to work closely with EMS field experts, subject matter experts, and psychometricians to develop and test the new items to ensure all standards and accreditation requirements are met.

Education Coordinator and ALS-Coordinator Updates for 2023

All EC Updates scheduled for 2023 are posted on the OEMS website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/>

Registration is required to attend all EC/ALS-C updates.

Accredited BLS Programs

Beginning January 1, 2023 with the rollout of the 2021 NEMSES, when creating your Course Request in the EMS Portal, please select "**Emergency Medical Technician – Accredited Program**" or "**High School EMT Accredited Program**" as appropriate. The "In-house Psychomotor" and "Psychomotor Exempt" options have been removed from the selection list.

2021 NEMSES Rollout and Required Forms/Documents

Reminder: The 2021 National EMS Education Standards go into effect on January 1, 2023. The Standards are applicable to ALL initial certification programs as well as continuing education.

All materials, documents & forms pertaining to the 2021 NEMSES are located on Blackboard in the Education Coordinator Village. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, please reach out to Jasper Williams our Blackboard Administrator. Jasper's e-mail is: jasper.williams@vdh.virginia.gov.

- **2021 National EMS Education Standards**

- The Course Student Disposition Report (CSDR) screens in the EMS Portal will undergo **major changes** effective January 1, 2023. Please take a few minutes to review this online training program so you are aware of what these screens will look like and how they will function within the overall EMS Portal system. Due to a technical issue with our test environment, this tutorial has not yet been posted. I will endeavor to get this video completed and uploaded New Year's Day. It will be located in the Education Coordinator Village with all the other NEMSES materials.
- A special document titled: **Transitioning BLS Providers to the 2021 NEMSES Through Continuing Education** is also posted on Blackboard. This document details all the changes and updates that the bulk of Virginia's 25,000 EMR's & EMT's should be updated/refreshed or trained on moving forward.
- The **Virginia Student Minimum Competencies (SMC) Matrix** will be delayed until at least January 6, 2023 as we work with the State Medical Director Dr. George Lindbeck to address several topics. Once this document is complete, it will be posted to the Education Coordinator Village with all the other NEMSES materials.

- **A Note about Textbooks & NEMSES Content**

While we have determined that all current EMT textbooks minimally meet the 2021 NEMSES, it is incumbent on you as an Education Coordinator to ensure that you are appropriately covering the content in the 2021 NEMSES. In most cases, this will mean additional work for you as you will need to research the new content and provide supplemental resources to your students.

Some of the areas which will require significant updating and additional resources include:

- Behavioral/Psychiatric
- Cultural Humility
- Pharmacology
- Public Health
- EMS Safety, Wellness, and Resilience
- Patients with Special Challenges

CE Credit from College Transcripts

On October 1, 2023, the National Registry changed their policy on the issuance of continuing education credit based on college courses. While we are still able to award CE for these courses (10 hours for every one hours of college credit in the science related courses), we are only able to award these in the LCCR/ICCR (Category 2) area. All NCCR (Category 1) CE hours must be completed through either traditional or online courses. There is no limit on the number of CE hours that can be completed in CAPCE accredited courses.

An unofficial college transcript can now be provided and should be forwarded to Debbie (Deborah.T.Akers@vdh.virginia.gov) for review and the awarding of the Category 2 CE credit. As in the past, Education Coordinators should not be awarding CE from college transcripts.

Auxiliary Program Course Approvals

When announcing your courses to our office, the expiration date of the request cannot exceed the expiration date of the instructor card attached to the request. For the NAEMT courses, because the instructor cards have no expiration date, please provide evidence that you are still authorized to offer the course. This can be in the form of the course that has been announced to and approved by NAEMT.

The Office of EMS will be closed in observance of New Year's Day on Monday, January 2, 2023. As always, should you have any questions, please let us know. Debbie and I wish each of you a happy, health and prosperous New Year!

Best,

Chad

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