

## RN to Paramedic Policy and Procedures

**PURPOSE:** To establish requirements necessary for applicants that currently hold a valid license as a Registered Nurse to be authorized and credentialed to practice as a West Virginia Paramedic.

**POLICY:** To ensure consistent standards and procedures for Registered Nurses certifying as a Paramedic in West Virginia.

### PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Apply for certification by completing an online application at [www.wvoems.org](http://www.wvoems.org).
- B. Submit the appropriate fees as required in WV §64 CSR 48-6.9.
- C. Be 18 years of age or greater.
- D. Disclose any limitation or exclusion by any EMS Agency, EMS Medical Director, or any other healthcare professions certification or licensing authority in any state, territory or the U.S. Military Services.
- E. Apply for and be cleared by the State and National background checks for WVOEMS as required in WV §16- 4C-8.1.1: (RN Board Background Check may substitute for this requirement).
- F. Create a valid CIS account.
- G. Possess a current, unrestricted RN License in West Virginia.
- H. Possess a current ACLS certification.
- I. Possess a current ITLS or PHTLS, and PEPP or PALS certification. TNCC will be accepted in place these courses for initial certification as a paramedic.
- J. Possess current or documented former certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or equivalent in West Virginia or any other US state or territory, or;
  - 1. Must successfully complete an approved EMT refresher course, and;
  - 2. Successfully complete and pass all practical skills evaluations for the EMT level of certification per NREMT standards conducted by WVOEMS approved skills evaluators. The process to test is as follows:
    - a. Create a NREMT account or log in to your existing account

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- b. Go to the "CBT Candidate" link
  - c. Click on "Create Certification Application"
  - d. Select your level as "Assessment-(EMT)" then click "Next"
  - e. On the next page, you will see two boxes: State Office and Reason for Test
  - f. Select "WV" as your state and then select "Other" as your "Reason to Test"
- K.** Successfully complete Hazmat Awareness training meeting OSHA 1910.120 or higher standards annually.
- L.** Successfully complete a WVOEMS approved MCI Awareness and Operations. (6 hours)
- M.** Successfully complete an approved CPR refresher course meeting WV §64 CSR 48-6.8.a.4. Applicant must show proof of current valid CPR certification.
- N.** Successfully complete a WVOEMS ALS Protocol In-service. (4 hours)
- O.** Complete a **44 Hour** Paramedic bridge program as outline below:
- 1. Complete **20 hours** of Airway Management Skills based on the National paramedic curriculum outlined in Appendix I. This will ensure understanding of the following topics:
    - a. Orotracheal Intubation
    - b. Nasotracheal Intubation
    - c. Complicated Airways
    - d. EtCO<sub>2</sub>
    - e. Chest Decompression
    - f. Cricothyrotomy
  - 2. Complete **12 hours** of scenario based lab that ensures the candidate has competencies in the following:
    - a. ALS Patient Assessment
    - b. All skills listed in M. 1. A-F.
    - c. Candidate is required to perform ten (10) successful intubations utilizing high fidelity simulation.
  - 3. Complete **12 hours** of WVOEMS approved 12 Lead ECG Training.
  - 4. Complete all skills outlined in the RN to Paramedic skill sheet and document on the appropriate form.

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- P. Complete and submit the **RN to Paramedic Initial Certification Education Record** and **RN to Paramedic Skills Sheet**.
- Q. RN's will be required to maintain a current, unrestricted RN License in West Virginia to remain certified as a WV Paramedic. Recertification may be obtained by following the Paramedic Recertification Policy in its entirety.
- R. Meet other requirements established by the Commissioner.  
This policy replaces all previous policies for RN to Paramedic initial certification.  
APPLICABLE CODE/RULE: WV Code §16-4C-6 and §16-4C-8 and §64 CS 48-6.