

Paramedic

Initial Certification Policy

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of

**Health &
Human
Resources**



BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
Office of Emergency Medical Services



Paramedic Initial Certification Policy and Procedures

PURPOSE: To establish requirements necessary for all applicants seeking certification and authorization to be credentialed and practice at the Paramedic level.

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

PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Create a valid WVOEMS account.
- B. Create a valid National Registry account.
- C. Apply for certification by completing an online application at www.wvoems.org/ecert.
- D. Submit the appropriate fees as required in WV §64 CSR 48-6.9.
- E. Be 18 years of age or greater.
- F. 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.
- G. Apply for and be cleared by the State and National background checks for WVOEMS as required in WV §16- 4C-8.1.1.
- H. Possess a current EMT certification.
- I. Successfully complete Hazmat Awareness training meeting OSHA 1910.120 or higher standards.
- J. Successfully complete a WVOEMS approved MCI Awareness and Operations (6 hours). *This requirement only applies if the applicant has never completed this program previously. This initial program is a onetime only requirement.*
- K. Successfully complete an approved CPR refresher course meeting WV §64 CSR 48-6.8.a.4. at the professional/healthcare provider level.

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- L. Successfully complete a WVOEMS Initial ALS Protocol Course. (4 hours)
- M. Complete a Paramedic Education Program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in a manner prescribed under the Accreditation of EMS Programs (CoAEMSP).
- N. Successfully complete and pass all practical skills evaluations for the paramedic level of certification as outlined by the WVOEMS.
- O. Successfully complete and pass all cognitive examinations with a certifying score for the paramedic level determined by the National Registry cognitive examination.
- P. Proof of education shall be verified through an attestation statement submitted as part of your WVOEMS EMS application and shall be subject to audit at any time during the recertification process or during an active investigation.
- Q. **Important Notice:** An EMR/EMT/AEMT/Paramedic certified by WVOEMS must be continually certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) during the duration of your WVOEMS certification. Failure to retain uninterrupted National Certification will result in the immediate suspension of your WVOEMS certification and your right to practice in West Virginia.
- R. Meet other requirements established by the Commissioner.
This policy replaces all previous policies for paramedic initial certification.
APPLICABLE CODE/RULE: WV Code §16-4C-6 and §16-4C-8 and §64 CS 48-6.