

Maine EMS Exam Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

De Champlain Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Present: Jacky Vaniotis – Chair, Jeff Regis, Joanne LeBrun, Bob Hawkes, Kelly Roderick, Leah Mitchell, Gary Utgard, Sally Taylor (via teleconference)

Absent: Rick Doughty, Glen Targonski,

Guest: Matt Albrecht

Staff: Drexell White

Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. Paramedic student Matt Albrecht was introduced to the committee members.

A. Assign Timekeeper – Jeff Regis

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - None

C. Minutes – February 24, 2009 meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the February 24, 2009 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the February 24, 2009, meeting (LeBrun; second by Hawkes - motion carries)

1. Old Business

A. Intermediate Practical Exam – Examiner Instructions – Update

No new information to report.

B. Exam Administration Manual (EAM) Update

The committee reviewed the latest changes to the EAM made by Gary Utgard. Exam committee members noted:

- That many of the appendices can be removed as they are no longer relevant to the testing process
- The terms cognitive and psychomotor should be used consistently throughout the document and appendices

Gary will continue to work on the draft and incorporate changes discussed.

C. Exam Committee EMS Rules Recommendation – Update

The Maine EMS Board accepted the committee's proposed changes to the Maine EMS rules (draft) document. The draft rules proposal will begin the formal rulemaking process in April with hearings scheduled for the week of April 27th.

D. IPE Question for Ops

Joanne reported back from the last Ops Team meeting in which she asked questions on behalf of the Exam Committee. The first question asked whether course sponsors were using the Integrated Practical Exam as the class final exam as well as the State practical licensing exam (IPE) or whether course sponsors were conducting a final course practical exam and then an IPE following the course final. Anecdotal information received by the committee suggested that the aforementioned practice of conducting a course final and then a subsequent IPE was occurring in Maine. The Ops Team response was that course final practical exams were conducted as part of the IPE process. Only in rare occasions were the two separated, usually because of a technical college requirement for submission of course grades necessitated completion of a practical exam prior to the (scheduled) IPE date.

The other question concerned whether regions were using a separate EMT-Intermediate testing application. Regional coordinators reported to Joanne that they use the "yellow" Maine EMS Testing and Licensure application as a testing application.

General discussion followed about how the IPE would integrate with the new Training Center Approval Process (TCAP). Drexell suggested that it may be time to convene the original IPE group that consisted of the Exam and Education committees and the Ops team to assess the IPE and whether changes in the (IPE) process are needed given the change in the EMS Educational delivery system.

Drexell will check with Jan Brinkman to set a date to bring the IPE group together. Suggestions for possible meeting dates included the afternoon after the April Exam Committee meeting or after the May Education Committee meeting.

Joanne asked that a representative of the Education Committee provide Exam Committee members with an overview of the TCAP process prior to the (IPE) group meeting.

E. State Evaluator Compensation – Review

Committee members reviewed the current payment model for IPE State Evaluators. Evaluators are paid \$25.00/hr for a maximum of five hours, plus mileage/meal and hotel costs (if an overnight stay is required). Members questioned:

- Whether the current rate of reimbursement was sufficient to cover the cost and time of the State Evaluator, when overseeing an IPE
- If the current IPE fee to sponsors generates a profit, loss or break even for Maine EMS

Concerns by members who also serve as IPE state evaluators was that the five hour maximum (of pay) was appropriate given that some IPEs require extensive travel.

Members asked if the April 8, 2009 IPE State Evaluators meeting had been confirmed. Drexell will poll the Evaluators and will confirm the meeting if a majority of Evaluators are able to attend.

Discussion will continue at next month's meeting.

F. Bleeding/Shock Management Skill Sheets

The Bleeding Control/Shock Management skills sheets were reviewed and discussed. The National Registry of EMT (NREMT) changed the sheet in March 2009 to include use of a tourniquet. Review of

Maine's EMT-Basic and First Responder curriculum revealed that tourniquets are included in the EMT-Basic curriculum and texts, but that the First Responder Curriculum and texts are unclear in the use of tourniquets.

The EMT –Basic skills sheet has been modified along with the Practical Test Assistant (PTA) Instructions for Bleeding Control/Shock Management. First Responder and EMT-Intermediate skill sheets will be modified accordingly.

The committee then discussed whether tourniquets should be applied to programmed patients given the potential for programmed patient injury due to an (inadvertently) tightened tourniquet. Consensus was to indicate that a simulated extremity be used when students are applying a tourniquet. The simulated extremity could be an IV arm, mannequin arm or leg or a taped towel roll.

The committee indicated that the tourniquet should be a commercially prepared type.

Examiner instructions will be revised to include language regarding use of simulated extremities.

G. NREMT Basic Exam

See item 1.D above regarding IPE group review..

H. Item Analysis

The EMT-Intermediate exam analysis was tabled due to lack of time and will be rescheduled for next month's meeting

4. To Do List – To be updated based upon the meeting

5. New Business

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Exam committee is scheduled for Tuesday April 28, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at Maine EMS

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White