



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 12, 2015

To: EMS Provider Agencies, Training Programs. First Responder Instructors and Certified First Responders

From: Eric M. Rudnick, MD, FACEP, FAAEM
Medical Director

Subject: Emergency Medical Responders and Phasing-Out of First Responder Certification

The prehospital certification level First Responder (FR) is based upon the Department of Transportation's (DOT) curriculum from the early 1990's. Although the curriculum covers many basics it was determined that it needed updating. This was the driving force behind the state's adoption of the DOT Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification level. In the First Aid and CPR Standards and Training for Public Safety Personnel Regulations effective April 1, 2015, EMR is now identified as one of the options in meeting the state's Public Safety Training Standards. The DOT First Responder (FR) is not listed as a certification level course meeting the Public Safety Training Standards. The regulation provides for a transition period from FR to EMR.

After discussion with stakeholders and other regulatory entities Nor-Cal EMS will be phasing-out the FR certification process effective April 1, 2016.

As of April 1, 2016, we will only certify those who have taken an approved EMR course (initial or transition) of instruction.

The EMR course is 60 hours as compared to the FR course, which is 40 hours. This does not include the Cardiopulmonary Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) provider training. To recertify as a FR or to transition to an EMR will require an additional 24 hours of didactic and skills education.

What does this mean for a currently certified First Responder?

- Your certification will be recognized until the end of your current certification cycle, even if it expires after April 1, 2016.
- If your certification expires before the April 1, 2016 deadline you will be faced with the following options:

Option I Complete the FR recertification process utilizing the existing Nor-Cal EMS application and requirements. This must be completed before April 1, 2016 for a 2-year FR recertification cycle.

Or

Option II Take an EMR course (either initial or transition) and complete the EMR initial certification process by utilizing the existing Nor-Cal EMS application and requirements. (Recommended)

- If your certification expires after March 31, 2016 you will be required to take an EMR course (initial or transition) and complete the EMR initial certification process by utilizing the existing Nor-Cal EMS application and requirements.

Nor-Cal EMS currently certifies Emergency Medical Responders. We anticipate many instructors will be offering EMR initial and transition courses.

If you have any questions regarding this transition process please contact our office.