KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services

(Emergency Waivers and Modifications)

202 KAR 7:401. Paramedics.

Section 1. Paramedic Student Eligibility. (1) Individuals shall be eligible to enroll as a student in a paramedic education and training program if the applicant:

(a) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

(b) Holds current unrestricted certification as an EMT in Kentucky or holds current unrestricted registration or provisional certification with the NREMT as an NREMT-B;

(c) Is not currently subject to disciplinary action pursuant to KRS Chapter 311A that would prevent licensure; and

(d) Meets all additional requirements established by the EMS-TEI.

Section 2. Licensure Requirements. (1) Individuals desiring initial licensure as a paramedic shall:

(a) Meet all of the requirements contained in Section 1 of this administrative regulation;

(b) Obtain NREMT registration as a NREMT-P or complete a state approved Paramedic certification exam process;

(c) Submit a signed "Application for Paramedic Examination and Licensure"; and

(d) Pay the fee required by 202 KAR 7:030.

Section 3. Relicensure and Continuing Education Requirements. (1) A paramedic shall be eligible for relicensure if the applicant:

(a) Submits to the KBEMS office a signed, completed "Universal Application for

Recertification/Relicensure"; and

(b) Pays the fee established in 202 KAR 7:030.

(2) An application for renewal of licensure shall be denied if:

(a) Prior to the licensure expiration date, the paramedic applicant has not met the applicable requirements of this administrative regulation; or

(b) The applicant has been subjected to disciplinary action that prevents relicensure at the time of application.

(3) A licensed paramedic, in good standing, who is a member of a National Guard or a military reserve unit and is called to active duty by presidential order pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 121 and 673b shall be given a one (1) year extension following release from active duty to meet the applicable requirements for relicensure listed in this section. The paramedic shall submit a written request for this extension within sixty (60) days of release from active duty.

(4) The KBEMS office may audit a paramedic's continuing education and continuing education records.

(5) The paramedic shall maintain documentation of all continuing education for four (4) years from the date of completion.

Section 4. Paramedic Reciprocity. (1) A person certified or licensed as a paramedic, or who has been previously certified or licensed as a paramedic, in another state or territory of the United States or a member of the National Guard or United States Armed Forces who is certified as a paramedic, or who has been previously certified as a paramedic, shall be eligible for direct reciprocity for initial Kentucky licensure as a paramedic if the individual:

(a) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

(b) Has not been found guilty of or entered a guilty plea or Alford plea to a felony

offense;

(c) Has not been subjected to discipline that would prevent reciprocity at the time of application;

(d) Submits an "Out-Of-State Paramedic Application" signed by the applicant;

(e) Pays the fee required by 202 KAR 7:030; and

(f) Has successfully completed a training program, which utilized the United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1998 National Standard Curriculum, Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic as the curriculum for education if any individual initially certified or licensed after January 1, 1985. An earlier edition of the National Standard Curriculum which was in effect in at the time of initial certification or licensure shall be considered to meet this requirement.

Section 5. Exemptions from Paramedic Administrative Regulations. The Kentucky licensure requirements for a paramedic shall not apply to:

(1) United States military personnel or state National Guard or employees of the United States government while providing services on a United States government-owned or operated facility, while engaged in the performance of their official duties under federal law, or while providing assistance in mass casualty or disaster type situation; or

(2) A paramedic licensed or certified in another state or territory of the United States who:

(a) Comes into Kentucky to transport a patient from another state into Kentucky; or

(b) Is transporting a patient through the state of Kentucky to an out-of-Kentucky location.

Section 6. State of Emergency Reinstatement of License. (1) A paramedic whose license

has lapsed, may reinstate their license during the COVID-19 State of Emergency by submitting:

(a) A completed State of Emergency Reinstatement application in KEMSIS;

(b) A criminal background check that is not more than six (6) months old from the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

(c) Evidence of previous certification or licensure as a paramedic in Kentucky.

1. The burden of proof of previous licensure shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant.

(d) Evidence of successful completion within twenty-four (24) months preceding their application for reinstatement of the "Paramedic Minimum Continuing Education Requirement" that includes thirty (30) hours of continuing education, to include the following topics:

1. Two (2) hours in preparatory;
2. Four (4) hours in airway management;
3. Five (5) hours in cardiac management;
4. Four (4) hours in medical or behavioral emergencies;
5. Five (5) hours in trauma;
6. Two (2) hours in obstetrics or gynecology;
7. Five (5) hours in pediatrics; and
8. Three (3) hours in operations.

(e) Payment of the fee established in 202 KAR 7:030

(2) An application for State of Emergency reinstatement of licensure shall not be considered if:

(a) The applicant is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to KRS Chapter 311A;

(b) The applicant is an individual who has been convicted of or entered a guilty plea or

Alford plea to a felony offense; or

(c) The applicant has been subjected to discipline that would prevent reinstatement at the time of application.

Section 7. Critical Care Endorsement. (1) A paramedic licensed by the board may be granted a critical care endorsement MTP upon presentation of a board approved application and completion of a training program that minimally meets the objectives of the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus CCEMTP Program. The ambulance service director and EMS medical director shall validate verification of the program having met the specified training standards.

(2) The critical care endorsement shall be valid so long as the paramedic maintains:

(a) Current licensure as a paramedic by the board; and

(b) Current certification as a CCEMTP or verification of continued clinical competence by the paramedic's EMS medical director.

(3) A paramedic with a critical care endorsement shall be authorized to perform the skills and procedures included in their education and training subject to authorization by the medical director through established protocols.

(4) A licensed paramedic with a critical care endorsement shall be responsible for providing the KBEMS office with copies of their current CCEMTP credentials.

Section 8. Public Notice of Negative Action. The KBEMS office shall cause to be published, in the KBEMS News or similar publication of the board, or otherwise disseminate the name of a paramedic that is fined, is placed on probationary status, is placed on a restricted status, is suspended, or has had their licensed revoked.

Section 9. Temporary License. (1) KBEMS staff may issue a temporary license to an

individual who:

(a) Submits a completed "Application for Temporary Certificate";

(b) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

(c) Provides proof of being currently certified or licensed as a paramedic in another state or territory of the United States or is currently registered by the NREMT as a paramedic or has successful completed a KBEMS approved paramedic certification course through a KBEMS certified EMS-TEI within the last twenty-four (24) months;

(d) Pays the fee required by 202 KAR 7:030;

(e) Provides the board with a copy of a statewide criminal background check from their state of residence;

(f) Is not an individual who has been convicted of or entered a guilty plea or Alford plea to a felony offense; and

(g) Has not been disciplined by or has action pending against or had a certificate or license in the field of health care denied, limited, suspended, or probated by a certifying or licensing entity in Kentucky or other state or territory under the jurisdiction of the United States.

(2) Applications for temporary licensure must be received no later than February 19, 2021;

(3) A temporary license shall expire on January 15, 2022;

(4) Applicants holding temporary licensure as a Paramedic shall obtain unrestricted initial licensure or reciprocity with the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services prior to January 15, 2022.

(5) Applicants who have a Kentucky Emergency Medical Technician or Advanced Emergency Medical Technician certification that remains in good standing may complete a

"downgrade" application to reinstate their respective EMT or AEMT certification if Paramedic licensure is not obtained by January 15, 2022.

(6) Individuals who completed a "downgrade" application that was not a requirement of disciplinary action between February 19, 2021, and October 15, 2021, may reinstate their temporary Paramedic license no later than November 1, 2021. The fee and CEU requirements described in Section 6 shall be waived.

(7) All certifications issued through "downgrade" shall expire on December 31, 2022 and shall be eligible for renewal.

Section 10. Determination of Death Protocol. (1) The paramedic shall determine and document that the following signs of death are present:

(a) Unresponsiveness;

(b) Apnea;

(c) Absence of a palpable pulse at the carotid site;

(d) Bilaterally fixed and dilated pupils; and

(e) Except in a case of trauma, asystole determined in two (2) leads on an electrocardiograph.

(2) The paramedic shall determine that one (1) of the following factors or conditions exist:

(a) Lividity of any degree;

(b) Rigor mortis of any degree;

(c) Presence of venous pooling in the body;

(d) Damage or destruction of the body which is incompatible with life; or

(e) A copy of the EMS "Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Form" or identification bracelet or

other means of identification evidencing a patient's desire not to be resuscitated in accordance with KRS 311A.170.

(3) If a paramedic has determined and documented that the conditions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section exist, the paramedic may, subject to the provisions of this administrative regulation, declare the patient dead.

(4) The paramedic may contact medical control or other licensed physician, if authorized in writing by the medical director, for advice and assistance in making a determination required by this administrative regulation.

(5) If a paramedic determines a patient to be dead, the paramedic shall remain on the scene unless their personal safety is jeopardized, until the arrival of the coroner, deputy coroner, or law enforcement officer from that jurisdiction.

Section 11. Discontinuance of Resuscitative Efforts. (1) A paramedic may discontinue resuscitation if:

(a) The patient has suffered cardiac arrest prior to arrival at the hospital;

(b) The paramedic has performed the resuscitative efforts required in the resuscitation protocol of the ambulance service medical director;

(c) The resuscitative efforts were unsuccessful; and

(d) The patient meets the criteria established in Section 11(1) of this administrative regulation.

(2) A paramedic may also discontinue resuscitation:

(a) If the safety of the paramedic is at risk; or

(b) At mass casualty incidents.

(3) A paramedic may discontinue resuscitation initiated by someone other than a

paramedic if:

(a) The patient has suffered cardiac arrest;

(b) The resuscitative efforts required in the resuscitation protocol of the ambulance service medical director have been performed and documented;

(c) The resuscitative efforts were unsuccessful; and

(d) The patient meets the criteria established in Section 11(1) of this administrative regulation.

(4) If a paramedic discontinues resuscitation on a patient prior to transport of the patient to a medical facility, the paramedic shall make the notifications required by KRS 72.020 and at least one (1) member of the ambulance crew shall remain on the scene until the arrival of a coroner, deputy coroner or law enforcement officer.

(5) If a paramedic discontinues resuscitation on a patient during transport to a medical facility, the paramedic shall make the notifications required by KRS 72.020 to the officials of the county in which the paramedic discontinued resuscitation. Upon making the notification, the paramedic shall determine from the coroner whether to remain at that location, to return the deceased to a facility within the primary service area of the ambulance provider, or to continue on to the medical facility with the deceased.

(6) A paramedic shall discontinue resuscitation efforts if presented with a properly executed EMS DNR Form.

Section 12. The paramedic shall document all items required by Sections 10 and 11 of this administrative regulation on the Ambulance Run Form required by KRS 311A.190.

Section 13. Training of Paramedics in Determination of Death and Preservation of Evidence.

(1) The training program shall not be less than one (1) hour in length and, at a minimum, shall include:

(a) Information on and a copy of KRS 311A.170;

(b) Information on and a copy of this administrative regulation;

(c) Information on and a copy of KRS 72.020;

(d) Information on and a copy of KRS 446.400;

(e) Information on the duties of and role of the coroner and state medical examiner; and

(f) Information on preservation of evidence at the scene of a death.

(2) The training shall be:

(a) Provided as part of a paramedic training course conducted by an approved EMS-TEI via:

1. Classroom instruction;

2. Video conferencing or other distance learning media; or

3. Videotaped presentation or computer-based learning; and

(b) Conducted under the supervision of a medical director.

(3) The medical director of the ambulance service or EMS provider conducting the training shall request the coroner of the county in which the training is provided to attend and participate in the training.

(4) The EMS-TEI or the medical director providing the training shall maintain the following records:

(a) A copy of the course outline used in the training to verify that the training has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of this administrative regulation;

(b) A sign-in sheet with the printed and signed names and certification or license numbers and state of license of all paramedics who successfully completed the training, including the signature of the educator supervising the education program; and

(c) Curriculum vitae for each member of the course faculty.

(5) A certificate or letter of certification shall be provided to each participant in the program at the conclusion of the training.

(6) The KBEMS office shall maintain an approved curriculum that may be used by entities providing training specified by this administrative regulation.

Section 14. Incorporation by Reference. (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:

(a) The United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Administration, "1998 National Standard Curriculum, Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic" (1998 Edition);

(b) Field and Pilot Test Didactic and Practical Laboratory Hours Report of the United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Administration, 1998 National Standard Curriculum for Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic;

(c) Field and Pilot Test Clinical Report of the United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Administration, 1998 National Standard Curriculum for Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic;

(d) "Application for Paramedic Examination and Licensure" (June 2003);

(e) "Out of State Paramedic Application" (June 2003);

(f) "Application for Paramedic License Reinstatement" (June 2003);

(g) Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, Pre-Hospital Determination of

Death and Preservation of Evidence Training Curriculum (05-02); and

(h) "Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order".

(i) "Universal Application for Recertification/Relicensure";

(j) The "State of Emergency Reinstatement Application"

(k) The "Application for Downgrade."

(2) This material may be inspected, obtained, or copied, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Office of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, 2464 Fortune Drive, Suite 195, Lexington, Kentucky 40509, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Approved on: 9.27.21

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