



Department
of Health

**Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
And Trauma Systems**

POLICY STATEMENT

Supersedes/Updates:

No. 17 - 07

Date: August 31, 2017

**Re: EMT-Critical Care
Certification
Sunset/Transition**

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Background

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established by the New York State Emergency Medical Services Council (SEMSCO) at its September 2016 meeting. The TAG was established to examine ongoing concerns about the future viability of the EMT-Critical Care (CC) level of certification in New York State. The TAG was charged with examining the past and present operation of the CC program with the goal of making recommendations on the CC going forward.

The TAG reviewed CC utilization in each region, the curriculum, administrative burden and costs of sustaining CC education curriculum and exam development and maintenance, original course participation, refresher course attendance, use of CME refreshers and the comparative scope of practice and availability of AEMT educational programs. In the final analysis, the TAG concluded:

- The CC provider numbers have been steadily declining since 1997 and continue to trend downward.
- The number of CC original and refresher courses offered has also declined while the number of course sponsors has remained stable. The decline in course offerings is likely related to declining enrollments.
- Simultaneously, the CC program would require extensive curriculum, practical skills and written examination extensive revisions.
- The CC has no national equivalent from which curriculum and test items can be drawn.

The TAG proposed to SEMAC and SEMSCO a number of actions to gradually end the CC level of certification in NYS. These actions would allow continued CC certification renewals, affording REMSCOs and REMACs a prolonged period in which to sustain or reconfigure their systems, based on regional needs. These were approved by the SEMSCO at its May 10, 2017 meeting.

Transition Implementation Process

The following actions are being implemented to gradually end the CC level of certification:

1. Current CCs may continue refreshing their certification through the Continuing Medical Education (CME) refresher program.
2. The Department will no longer approve original CC courses with a start date after January 1, 2018.
3. The Department will no longer approve CC refresher or rapid refresher courses whose written examination would take place after August of 2019.
4. The development and release of an advanced standing/ bridge program from CC to Paramedic. This will be open to any NYS CC with 3 years of documented continuous practice¹. This program will include, but not be limited to, on-line didactic content with availability of skills and testing by local course sponsors.

¹ The term "continuous practice" is defined by 10 NYCRR Part 800.3(w)