



**EMS Information Bulletin 2020-07**

**DATE:** March 20, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Alternate Pathway for Psychomotor Testing

**TO:** PA EMS Educational Institutes  
PA EMS Students  
PA EMS Agencies  
PA Regional EMS Councils

**FROM:** Dylan Ferguson, Director  
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PA Department of Health  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to be 'DF' or similar initials.

On March 17, 2020 I ordered all Regional EMS Councils to discontinue psychomotor testing to protect the health and safety of the commonwealth's EMS system. We have been in contact with EMS stakeholders throughout the commonwealth and the nation to identify potential alternatives to be able to maintain a pipeline of certified EMS professionals.

The guidance below describes the extraordinary steps that the Bureau of EMS is taking as it relates specifically to psychomotor examinations and is in effect until further notice.

The EMS Act outlines the requirements to gain initial certification at the various levels of EMS provider in Pennsylvania. One of those requirements is to *"Has passed an EMR/EMT/AEMT/Paramedic (Whichever is applicable) skills practical examination approved by the department."*

- § 8114 (b) (4)—Relating to Emergency Medical Responders
- § 8115 (b) (4)—Relating to Emergency Medical Technicians
- § 8116 (b) (4)—Relating to Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians
- § 8117 (c) (4)—Relating to Paramedics

Based on guidance from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, and the fact that traditional psychomotor testing is not currently available at any level – until further notice a student who successfully completes a Pennsylvania Department of Health approved EMR, EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic course is considered to have met the skills practical examination

requirement as required by the EMS Act, on the basis of the practical skills that would have had to be successfully completed during the course of instruction.

All EMR's, EMT's, AEMT's and Paramedics who currently have a psychomotor exam attempt remaining and meet all other requirements pursuant to § 8113 (e) (4) & (5) will be credited with having successfully completed the psychomotor examination in the EMS Registry system based on their course completion. For existing candidates this process will be completed in the coming days.

The relevant sections are included below:

§ 8113(e)(4) A person who fails the practical skills examination three times shall complete a remedial course approved by the Department or repeat the EMS provider training program before again taking the examination.

§ 8113(e)(5) A person who fails either examination six times or who does not pass the required examinations within two years after completing the EMS provider training program shall receive no credit for an examination previously passed and shall repeat the training program for the EMS provider certification before the person may take the certification examinations again.

Additional information related to cognitive examinations will be forthcoming in the weeks to come. Please direct any questions to your Regional EMS Council for relay to the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.