



## Notice to EMR Course Directors:

Changes to EMR Course Administration and Psychomotor Testing

December 23, 2024

### Introduction

On November 1, 2024, new and revised Oregon Administrative Rules for initial EMS provider courses were adopted under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-264. A fact sheet describing the major rule changes is available on the OHA-EMS rules and statute webpage. Changes specific to EMR course administration are summarized below:

- Addition of definitions for course director, instructor, and instruction
- Updated EMR course director roles and responsibilities
- Requirement of a course syllabus for students
- Requirement for additional skill instructors to hold a current Oregon-license and be in good standing with the licensing agency or board
- Curriculum reference updated to reflect the 2021 National EMS Education Standards
- Requirement for students to demonstrate proficiency of all skills listed in the Oregon EMR scope of practice
- Replacement of psychomotor testing with final competency evaluations for the practical licensing exam

Please refer to the fact sheet and text of OAR 333-264 for more information regarding these changes.

The rule changes accommodate modern educational practices and methods more seamlessly and expand competency development and verification to capture several important aspects of entry-level EMR practice such as communication skills, decision-making, and critical thinking. The rule changes will also allow OHA to adapt methods and procedures for competency verification as the EMS profession continues to evolve.

### Description of Program Changes

- An [online course application](#) now replaces the pdf application form. Applications are still due [30 business days](#) before the start of the course and course status/approvals will continue to be emailed to course directors.
- Testing of isolated skills (i.e. the psychomotor exam) is no longer a component of the licensing examination; verification of skills proficiency is now part of course delivery. Guidance for this change is outlined in Section 1 of the EMR Competency Assessment Guide.

- Two types of practical evaluations will constitute the new 'practical/psychomotor exam': the first will assess the integration of certain skill sets in basic scenarios, and the other will evaluate patient assessment skills in medical and trauma contexts. More information regarding these new evaluation methods is provided in Sections 2 and 3 of the EMR Competency Assessment Guide.
- The written licensing exam will continue in EMR courses, but the format has changed to a scenario-based format targeting application of knowledge in context.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### [When are the new competency evaluation forms and processes going live?](#)

All approved EMR courses slated to begin in January 2025 will have the option to use the new competency evaluation format or the old licensing exams. The new format will be required of all courses starting in February 2025 and later.

### [Will I need to change my course schedule to accommodate these changes?](#)

Potentially yes. There are additional required components of the new final evaluations, though you have flexibility in how and when they are administered.

You will be required to sign off students on isolated skills, which can/should be done throughout the course. These sign-offs do not need to happen at the end. It is suggested that time already reserved for written and practical testing remain, though may need to be extended to accommodate the new testing formats. Additional time for make-ups and remediation is encouraged.

### [The new competency evaluations are very different from the previous examination scheme. Who do I contact if I need help with course adjustments?](#)

You may contact the OHA-EMS education team for guidance.

### [Why and how did OHA-EMS make these changes?](#)

The aim of the redesign is to develop assessments that target realistic expectations for entry-level performance of an EMR in the prehospital setting. The education staff at OHA-EMS worked with experienced EMR course directors to identify core attributes of EMR entry-level competence and set realistic learning targets for student proficiency in those areas. The focus group also provided input and feedback on the competency evaluation forms.

The OHA-EMS education staff will continue to engage the community of EMR course directors to review and refine these new forms and processes, and to explore future possibilities to support effective and holistic competency assessment.

You are welcome to provide input and feedback regarding the final competency materials, scoring policies, and forms. If you would like to assist the OHA-EMS education staff in reviewing the final version of the written exam, please email [Nicole.M.Perkins@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.M.Perkins@oha.oregon.gov).

### [May I continue to use the old testing materials in my course?](#)

The NREMT skill evaluation forms no longer play a role in the EMR licensing exam. However, you may alter and/or incorporate the NREMT skill sheets into the course as an option for skill development and for verifying technical proficiency. Use of the NREMT skill sheets are not required by OHA-EMS. Other types of procedural checklists, listings or assessments from other sources may be used for the initial development and verification of isolated skills.

The competency evaluation forms supplied by OHA-EMS must be used for the final practical assessments of student competency. You may utilize these forms to continue student development towards entry-level competency, and as preparation for the final evaluation phase of the course.

### [What will OHA-EMS require when my course is done?](#)

OHA-EMS will provide the EMR Final Exam Student Sign-off sheet to record the results of all required evaluations for each student and retain these as part of your course documentation. You will continue to issue the certificate of course completion to the student when they successfully complete all components of the course and pass the OHA-EMS evaluations required for licensing.