



PULSE SD



SD Dept. of Health — Office of EMS & Trauma

OFFICE OF EMS & TRAUMA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2024

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Administrator's Update

By Marty Link, Office of EMS & Trauma Administrator

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of PULSE-SD. For many of you following the 2024 legislative session, you are aware of three primary Department of Health (DOH) bills connected to lifting up the emergency medical services profession. Those bills include:

SB63: An Act to revise provisions related to the licensure and regulation of ambulance services.

SB64: An Act to revise provisions related to the regulation of emergency medical services and associated personnel.

SB87: An Act to revise provisions related to the State Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners and its appointed professional councils.

These bills are a result of five Advanced Life Support (ALS) stakeholder meetings that occurred over the summer of 2023 (plus several other discussions that took place among allied professionals under the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners that included DOH leadership and legislators).

Throughout the summer, the ALS workgroup expressed the desire for a one-roof concept where all EMS personnel i.e., EMR, EMT, Intermediate/85, Intermediate/99, Advanced EMT, and Paramedics reside under one regulatory body. The passage of Senate Bills 63 and 64 accomplished that milestone and the passage of Senate Bill 87 allows for the creation of an EMS pre-hospital care council.

The council will assist the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners in all matters related to the licensure, practice, education, continuing education, investigation, and discipline of EMS personnel.

The passage of these bills will enact law—and more importantly - transformative change to the landscape of EMS in South Dakota. We could not be prouder of those stakeholders who met over the summer and assisted DOH in creating successful legislation with a vision for the future.

Going forward, DOH will be working with the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners to transition EMR and EMT personnel out from the department to the Board as this will be effective July 1, 2024.

All EMR and EMT personnel are required to log into their ImageTrend E-Licensing account and ensure contact information is current. Communications regarding this transition will be in various forms, primarily email. Ambulance service directors are highly encouraged to actively participate in the monthly leadership webinars that the department's EMS and Trauma team conduct. These monthly sessions serve as an opportunity for information sharing, question and answer time, and feedback. *Marty*



Regional Service Designation Grant Opportunities

By Marty Link, Office of EMS & Trauma Administrator

The department also recently announced a new grant opportunity, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, aimed at supporting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the state. This initiative, stemming from the Regional Services Designation analysis of 2023, offers \$7.5 million for EMS providers to enhance their services. Applications are open from January 16 to March 15, 2024. A second funding opportunity will be announced later in the year.



A recorded webinar overviewing the Regional Service Designation (RSD) grant opportunity can be found [here](#). We encourage ambulance services, hospitals, and private organizations with a vested interest in EMS to view the recorded webinar and contact our office with any inquires. Additional information pertaining to the RSD grant, statewide assessment, important dates, and eligibility requirements can also be found through the above hyperlink.

EMT Recertification Reminder

By Lance Iversen, Office of EMS & Trauma

EMTs who's South Dakota EMT Certification will expire this cycle (March 31, 2024) can log into their E-Licensing account (<https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login>) and apply for recertification.

If your SD EMT certification expires, you are not legally able to function as an EMT on a SD Licensed Ambulance Service.

Renewing your National Registry Certification **does not** automatically renew your SD EMT Certification. If you plan to keep your SD EMT Certification you have to log into your E-Licensing account and apply for recertification.

Please keep your contact information up-to-date in your E-Licensing account, such as your phone number, mailing address and email address. All Reminder Notices to Renew (90 day, 30 Day and 15 Day Final Notice) are sent via email to the email address in the person's E-Licensing Account.

Ambulance Service Renewal & Vehicle Inspections

By Julie Smithson and Lance Iversen, Office of EMS & Trauma

During the COVID 19 Pandemic in 2020, we allowed ambulance service leadership (Directors, Assistant Directors, and Operations Managers) to complete required inspections (Self-Inspections) of their ambulance(s)/vehicles.

Inspections of your ambulance(s) is required within your service's two-year license period and the application to do this is in your E-Licensing account under "Applications", then "View Service Applications" for your ambulance service.

Within your E-Licensing account, you can also complete an application to add a new vehicle, update, or remove a vehicle for your service. You can also view the status of your vehicles under your "Service" tab then "Vehicles". If you have a vehicle (ambulance, air or ground) that is coming up on its expiration date, please complete the self-inspection application before your Ambulance Service License expiration date (June 30, 2024), and before you submit your Ambulance Service License Renewal Application (between April 1 – June 30, 2024).

Beginning on your next ambulance service license period (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026) all ambulances (vehicles) inspection dates will expire at the same time as your service license and will match the vehicle permit stickers.

The Office of EMS & Trauma will perform random in-person inspections of ambulances throughout the two-year license period.

If you have questions on your vehicles or vehicle inspections, please contact: Julie Smithson at 605-394-5113 or Julie.smithson@state.sd.us or . For questions on renewing your Ambulance Service License (April 1st—June 30th), contact Lance Iversen at 605-394-6027 or Lance.Iversen@state.sd.us.

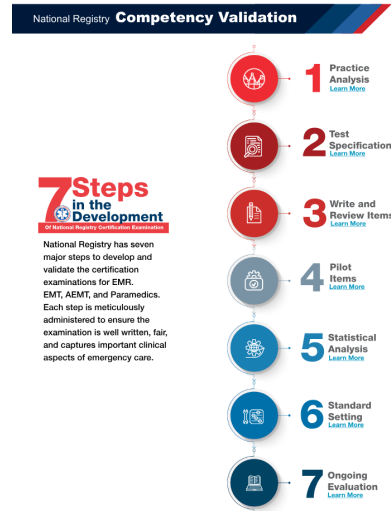
NREMT Competency Validation

By NREMT

7 Steps in the Development of National Registry Certification Examination.

National Registry has seven major steps to develop and validate the certification examinations for EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedics. Each step is meticulously administered to ensure the examination is well written, fair, and captures important clinical aspects of emergency care.

1. **Practice Analysis** - Practice analysis is grounded in widely recognized and accepted research practices and uses a variety of methods to collect data, such as review of EMS event documentation, observational studies, 1:1 interviews, subject matter expert panels and focus groups, and surveys to understand the needed knowledge, skills, and abilities of the profession.
2. **Test Specifications** - Test specifications connect EMS practice to examination content. The examination content is built upon findings from the practice analysis. The identified tasks of the EMS role from the Practice Analysis form the foundation for a blueprint of a valid examination.
3. **Write And Review Items** - Based on the findings from test specifications.
 - Subject matter experts, who are EMS clinicians or educators from across the nation, write examination items.
 - After our team reviews the items for accuracy, relevance, proper scope of practice, and writing style, an in-house editor conducts an editorial review.
 - The items are further reviewed, refined, or discarded by a separate panel of subject matter experts who are clinicians or educators from across the nation.
 - The items received a second internal review and a second editorial review to ensure item quality.
4. **Pilot Items** - The items enter a “pilot” phase and are placed as unscored items on the examination. This phase collects data on how candidates interact and respond to the piloted items.
5. **Statistical Analysis** - Our psychometric team reviews items to determine their performance. Analyzing the data helps determine the item difficulty, discrimination, and detect potential bias. Items that do not meet the quality standards enter the revision process or are discarded.
6. **Standard Setting** - Another subject matter expert group reviews items that received approval from the pilot phase. This group makes an informed recommendation to establish a passing standard for the examination. The recommendation is reviewed and approved by the National Registry Board of Directors. The National Registry Board of Directors are not staff employees.
7. **Ongoing Evaluation** - The items are routinely reviewed for performance. If an item does not meet National Registry standards, it is removed from the examination and either discarded or revised. This process is ongoing and never ends.



<https://www.nremt.org/>

Telemedicine In Motion

By John Gruber, AVEL



Telemedicine in Motion: EMS is a new program designed to provide telemedicine services to EMS agencies throughout the state of South Dakota. Agencies who participate will be able to install an iPad in the back of their ambulance and use the tool to call Avel eCare's emergency medicine experts who are based in Sioux Falls. This program is a first-of-its-kind in the nation and will help sustain the future of EMS in our state.

How it Works

- Ambulances are equipped with a cabin-mounted telehealth tablet, microphone, speaker, antenna, and cellular modem to support strong connectivity in the field.
- This package of technology is well suited to work in noisy, rural environments and has been designed to augment the services and actions of EMS professionals.
- When responding to a call, the EMS personnel can call Avel eCare EMS and, within moments, the board-certified ER physician, experienced medics and nurses will show up on the screen to assist.



Updates

The program has statewide coverage

- See back for a map of all the sites that have implemented, are scheduled to be implemented, or have expressed an interest in the program

Support from the field - six month post survey:

- 80% of survey respondents felt that the program will help with recruitment
- 92.5% agreed that it adds to their ability to care for patients
- 87.5% agreed that it improves the quality of care in the community
- 77.5% agreed that the program improves the timeliness of care
- 77.5% agreed that the program enhances the EMT/Medics clinical skills

This program is IMPACTFUL

- Over 1000 patient encounters
- Top Chief complaints include: Trauma, Cardiac, and Altered Mental Status
- On 50%, we expedite care by calling report to the hospital
- On 2%, we help the team make the decision to bypass Level IV hospitals and immediate transfer to a Level I/II Trauma Center; greatly expediting speed to definitive care.

"This service will SAVE rural EMS Agencies in South Dakota and across the country."

Edward Konechne, Kimball Ambulance



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Telemedicine In Motion

By John Gruber, AVEL

Progress



Live Sites

- Aberdeen
- Alcester
- Arlington
- Armour
- Avon
- Belle Fourche
- Beresford
- Bison
- Bonesteel
- Bowdle
- Brandon
- Bridgewater
- Britton
- Burke
- Carthage
- Castlewood
- Centerville
- Chamberlain
- Clark
- Clear Lake
- Conde
- Corsica
- De Smet
- Dell Rapids
- Elk Point
- Elkton
- Estelline
- Eureka
- Faith
- Flandreau
- Fort Thompson
- Frederick
- Freeman
- Garretson
- Gettysburg
- Gregory
- Herreid
- Highmore
- Hot Springs
- Hoven
- Hudson
- Humboldt
- Hurley
- Ipswich
- Iroquois
- Jefferson
- Kadoka
- Keystone
- Kimball
- Lake Andes
- Lake Preston
- Lemmon
- Lennox
- Leola
- Lower Brule
- Marion
- Martin
- Menno
- Midland
- Mitchell
- Murdo
- Newell
- North Sioux City
- Onida
- Parker
- Philip

- Piedmont
- Pierre
- Plankinton
- Platte
- Presho
- Redfield
- Rosebud
- Scotland
- Selby
- Sisseton
- Springfield
- Stickney
- Sturgis
- Timber Lake
- Tripp
- Tyndall
- Viborg
- Wall
- Webster
- Wessington
- Wessington Springs
- White
- White Lake
- Winner
- Wolsey
- Woonsocket

Pending

- Enning
- Faulkton
- Hill City
- Howard
- Huron
- Lead-Deadwood
- Milbank
- Miller
- Mobridge
- Parkston
- Tabor
- Watertown
- White River

Interested

- Custer
- Eagle Butte
- Lake Norden
- McIntosh
- Pine Ridge
- Rapid City
- Sioux Falls
- Spearfish
- Vermillion

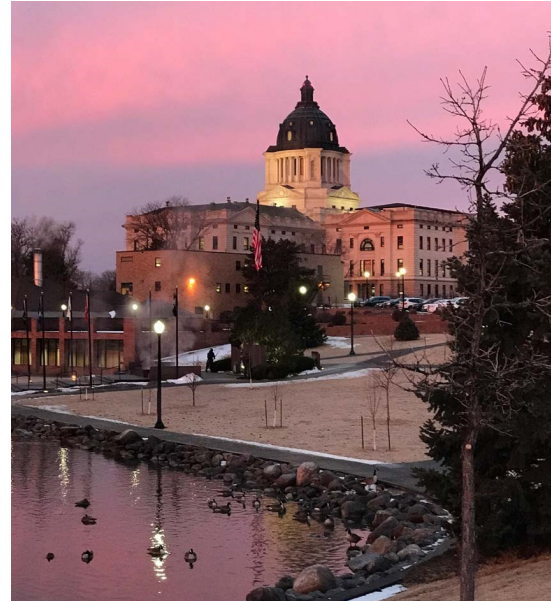
Opting Out

- Aberdeen Ambulance
- Brookings
- Buffalo
- Canton
- Edgemont
- Gary
- Madison
- Salem
- Yankton

For more information visit <https://ems.sd.gov/initiatives/>

2024 EMS Day On The Hill

By Maynard Konechne and DOH



EMS Day On The Hill was in Pierre on January 29, 2024.

Legislators were introduced to Heart & Vascular Screenings, AED/CPR Training, Stop the Bleed, and Naloxone training. SDEMSA, SDEMSA IC, SDAA, DOH EMS & Trauma, Sanford, and Avel demonstrated these skills which showcased their commitment to community well-being. Your dedication in becoming better-prepared first responders is truly commendable. Thank you for making a significant impact on community safety.

The day wrapped up by having a social with legislators in the evening at the Ramkota Hotel from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. We had a total of 82 attendees. (EMTs and Paramedics-15, DOH-6, Sec of Health-1, Lt Governor-1, Avel-4, Healthcare Strategists-1, Stryker-3, Legislators-43, and Interns-8).

2024 EMS Day On The Hill (pictured)

Front Row left to right: Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden, Maynard Konechne- Kimball, Governor Kristie Noem, Brian Hambeck-Spearfish, and Eric VanDusen-Yankton
2nd row: Tim Wallberg-Madison, Joshua Brumwell-SF Patient Care, Amy Roseland-Canton, Rob Keyes-Canton, Katie Cole-Winner, and Elizabeth Verhey-Spearfish
3rd row: Mark Potsma-SF Patient Care, Deb Faschnet-Wessington Springs, Sheila Monnier-Dual County, and Nicole Negubauer-Armour
Top Row: Chuck Hansen-Selby-Mobridge, Allen Perry-Lennox, Deb Doering-Wessington Springs, Gerald Knutson-Centerville, Scott Larson-Highmore, and John Gruber-SF Avel





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IMPROVE

SUPPORT

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