



University of Arizona Division of EMS Division

Policy: Recertification & Verification of Continuing Education for EMS

Purpose:

- All EMS providers shall maintain current state certification, required continuing education, and ACLS/CPR provider status appropriate to their certification level must be maintained, as outlined below.

ADHS EMS Recertification Requirements

- **Certification Cycle**
 - Arizona EMS certification must be renewed every two (2) years.
- **Continuing Education / Refresher Requirements**

Providers must complete the required number of continuing education (CE) hours during each certification cycle:

Provider Level	Minimum CE Hours per Cycle	Pediatric Requirement
EMR	16 hours	As required by ADHS
EMT (BLS)	24 hours	≥ 5 pediatric hours
AEMT	48 hours	≥ 5 pediatric hours
Paramedic (ALS)	48 hours	≥ 5 pediatric hours

- **Documentation**
 - Providers must provide documentation showing completion of required CE at the time of renewal.
 - CE documentation must be retained by the provider for a minimum of three (3) years and made available upon request or audit.
- **BLS (CPR)**
 - All providers must maintain current Healthcare Provider CPR certification.
 - CPR certification must include hands-on skills validation.
- **ALS-Specific Certifications**
 - ALS providers may be required by agency policy or medical direction to maintain:
 - ACLS certification
 - Additional endorsements as determined by the Medical Director
 - Ex. Critical Care Paramedic

Agency-Specific Requirements (Including Fire-Based EMS Systems)

- Providers assigned to fire-based EMS agencies must:
 - Maintain all Arizona state EMS certification requirements outlined above.
 - Comply with agency-specific training, skills validation, and continuing education policies.



- Agency requirements may include:
 - Annual or periodic skills competency evaluations
 - Mandatory in-service training
 - Medical director–directed education
 - QA/QI participation
- Agency requirements may exceed but may not replace Arizona state EMS certification requirements.

National Registry (NREMT) Certification

- Maintenance of National Registry certification is optional unless required by the employing agency.
- If maintained, providers must meet NREMT National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) requirements for their certification level.
- EMS providers are responsible for completing NREMT skills training through Administrative Medical Director approved sessions.
- NREMT recertification cycles align with the two-year Arizona certification cycle.

Compliance

- Providers are responsible for monitoring certification expiration dates and completing recertification requirements on time.
 - EMS Agencies are responsible for ensuring providers hold current state certifications
- EMS Agencies are responsible for assigning continuation modules, verifying completion, and determining the appropriate corrective actions to the providers that do not meet these requirements.

Special Circumstances

- Providers may request to be downgraded from an ALS to BLS provider if BLS certifications are up to date.
- If transferring agencies or prolonged absence, any additional training may be required by the agency and/or medical director depending on the agency transferring from or the duration of absence.
- Advanced special training required skills, see policy on STR skills.
- If providers desire to renew their National Registry (NREMT) Certification after it has lapsed, the provider must provide documentation demonstrating completion of CE. EMS providers are also responsible for completing NREMT skills training through Administrative Medical Director approved sessions.