

CLARIFYING CERTIFICATION, ACCREDITATION, LICENSURE, AND INTERSTATE MOBILITY FOR EMS CLINICIANS:

ENSURING COMPETENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

States hold the constitutional authority to ensure public welfare by licensing competent professionals and have ultimate authority and responsibility to approve emergency medical services (EMS) education programs within their state. In EMS, this is achieved through collaboration between state EMS Regulatory Agencies and specialized non-governmental organizations. The **National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (National Registry)** certifies EMS Clinicians, ensuring they possess the necessary competencies for safe patient care. The **Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP)** is responsible for recommending accreditation of paramedic and AEMT education programs to ensure they meet national educational standards established by the **Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)**. **CAAHEP** programmatically accredits paramedic education programs, and voluntarily accredits Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) education programs through the work of the **CoAEMSP**. The **Interstate Commission on EMS Personnel Practice (EMS Compact)** enables licensed EMS personnel to practice in other states under specific conditions.

These partnerships streamline the evaluation process, enforce standardization across educational programs, and enhance public safety by upholding consistent professional and educational standards nationwide. National professional standards ensure that Clinicians are held to the same rigorous standards, regardless of location, providing uniform care quality.

Certification by the **National Registry** focuses on measuring competency of EMS candidates and Clinicians, while state licensure assures the public of the Clinician's competence, trustworthiness, and legal authorization to provide care. This two-tiered system safeguards public health and safety by ensuring only qualified professionals are entrusted with EMS responsibilities.

The joint position paper clarifies the distinct roles of the **National Registry**, **CoAEMSP**, the **EMS Compact**, and state **Regulatory Agencies**. It emphasizes the importance of mandatory reporting to national databases like the **National EMS Coordinated Database (NEMSCD)** and the **National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB)** to maintain the integrity of the EMS profession and protect public trust.



This joint position paper by the National Registry, the NASEMSO, the CoAEMSP, and the EMS Compact outlines the roles and responsibilities of various entities in the certification, accreditation, and licensure of Clinicians.