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Candidate Guide and Application

for

Equivalency Testing for non-U.S. Trained EMS provider levels

Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Vison:

Creative and internationally leading ambulance service

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Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in this document

AHA: American Heart Association. The 2015 AHA standards on resuscitation are used in the examination

Advanced EMT: or AEMT is the level of exam and certification in the U.S. equivalent to the current title “Paramedic” as used in Dubai and equivalent to PHECC level 5

Certification: is a proof of learning

. Independent certification insures the program graduate is competent at the entry level of that certification. This independent testing equalizes multiple educational programs within or without different countries also prevents a program from simply graduating the student to move them along and preventing any program from becoming a “diploma mill”. Undergraduate certification examination will include both didactic and psychomotor portions. Post graduate levels such as flight and critical care certification may be didactic exam only. The length of certification may be limited with continuing education requirements for renewal to maintain currency of individual’s knowledge base. Certification should only last for a specific period of time such as two or three years. A renewal process will insure the practitioner is still up to date with changing knowledge and standards. Consistent standards set by the EMS community means patients can expect the same level of competency from all EMS providers, regardless of whether they are volunteers or career-based, or located in urban or rural settings. Currency of certification insures the provider remains up to date with changes in practice.

DCAS: Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Service is the governmental agency in Dubai charged with planning and oversight of the emergency medical services system. They are responsible for the EMS **licensing** of providers and ambulances in the Emirate.

EMT: Emergency Medical Technician is the level of provider equivalent to the level of provider certified in the U.S. known as EMT or to the current title EMT as used in Dubai and equivalent to PHECC level 4.

## IPR: International Paramedic Registry is a private, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides international certification of EMS providers through valid and reliable examinations that are unbiased, and academically rigorous both cognitive and psychomotor. IPR works in countries where invited by the governmental authority to provide testing services that are culturally appropriate for that country while providing an examination with international standardization. IPR is a collaboration with the National Association of EMTs and Ascend Learning with the American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of EMS Educators, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons as well as other organizations. see http://www.iprcert.net

Licensure: is the **permission of the government** to practice something regulated by the government. Dubai Corporation of Ambulance Services is the governmental agency with oversight responsibility in the Emirate of Dubai, UAE. By not having to administer the examination process for certification of learning itself; the DCAS will be able to concentrate its resources on currency of standards, re-licensure, investigations, and other regulatory needs of the system. A license may be revoked by DCAS for cause after investigation. The time of the license should run concurrently with the independent certification. When the certification expires so should the license.

NHTSA: United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The agency in the U.S. that publishes the national educational standards for each EMS provider level: EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic. The examinations of the NREMT and IPR are based on these standards. The equivalency examination discussed in this document is also based on this standard. See www.EMS.gov

NREMT: A private non-governmental non-profit organization based in Ohio, U.S. that provides **certification** of EMS providers through examination for graduates of training programs approved in U.S. see NREMT.org

OSCE: objective structured clinical examination also known as a practical or psychomotor examination. Usually multiple stations. Both the IPR and the NREMT require 4-6 stations at each level of certification. This plan does not currently include any OSCE testing. This could be discussed separately.

Paramedic: is the level of exam and certification in the U.S. equivalent to the current title “Advanced Paramedic” as used in Dubai and equivalent to PHECC level 6

Predictive: Instructors that participate in pilot-testing must report their students' National Registry exam results. With this information, a statistical analyzes of the relationship between passing our exam and passing the National Registry exam is determined. For example, when the Online Summative Paramedic Exam (OSPE) was originally released, we discovered that students who received a score of 71% or higher on the OSPE had a 97% chance of passing the Registry.

Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council –PHECC Irish statutory regulator for providing qualification exams for EMS providers in Ireland.

Reliable: After an exam has been validated, it is pilot-tested (i.e. administered to a study group) and analyzed for reliability. Using [Item Response Theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Item_response_theory), we can determine how well the exam functions as an assessment tool. A reliable exam is consistently able to distinguish between high-level learners and low-level learners.

Secure: The exam is only given in proctored secure environment on a secure computer link. Think on-line banking transactions. Various functions such as print and screen shots are locked out of the computer during the exam.

Valid: All of the content in the exam is reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who ensure that it is correct, current, comprehensive, and challenging. Each exam is blueprinted to ensure that the content addresses the chief objectives of the curriculum.

Purpose

* **This handbook is designed to assist you, the candidate, to be successful in taking this examination. There is important information in here to help you succeed.**
* This retesting is designed to assist DCAS in bringing emergency medical service standards in Dubai in line with leading international and North American standards of certification by level of provider. In 2016 U.S. NHTSA updated all pre-hospital educational standards, in 2016 National Registry of EMTs announced new certification standards, and in 2017 the International Paramedic Registry begins operations. **This examination will help you to prepare to meet the new standards and become eligible for the US NREMT**
* **.**

American Health

* An International Health Care Solutions Company based in New York, KSA, & Dubai. American Health is contracted by DCAS to assist in this assessment and educational effort for the advancement of all EMS providers in Dubai.
* Dedicated to **excellence** in patient care, American Health provide programs and courses to enhance the knowledge, skills and functions of healthcare professionals, ancillary support staff and organizations with the ultimate goal of advancing knowledge and improving health outcomes.
* American Health provides a variety of **world class** services and many international, cross-cultural education programs at home and abroad including:
  + Education programs for medical professionals worldwide (CME, Degrees)
  + Preparation for licensing exams (NCLEX, USMLE, NREMT)
  + Development and coordination of Service lines and **Centers of Excellence**
  + Assessment & Establishment of hospital operations
  + **Total quality improvement**
  + International medical professional staffing and recruitment
* American Health has a strong network of relationships with leading universities and hospitals throughout the United States, including Harvard, Cornell, Columbia and others. We work with our US partners to design and deliver our programs in the Middle East, and to provide education, clinical and management experiences in the US for Middle Eastern professionals.

U.S. EMS Provider Levels:

In the United States, there are four levels of prehospital providers as follows:

**EMR**: Emergency Medical Responder is someone that does not provide EMS care as their primary mission. But may have to provide lifesaving care while waiting for EMS to arrive or to assist EMS on scene. This is called level 3 in Dubai.

**EMT**: Emergency Medical Technician is the first level of EMS provider responsible for emergency care and transport of the sick or injured. EMTs work on ambulances and rescue vehicles and are responsible for basic life support which is mostly non-invasive interventions. In Dubai, this is level 4

**AEMT**: Advanced Emergency Medical Technician has all the training of an EMT and additional training in administering certain medications and administering IV medications and fluids along with limited cardiac monitoring. This is level 5 in Dubai.

**Paramedic:** Is the highest level of pre-hospital provider in the United States with the most comprehensive education in both depth and breadth. This is level 6 in Dubai.

Many Paramedics after several years will then go on to specialize and take board examinations for specialty certification in post graduate areas such as Tactical Paramedicine, Critical Care Transport, and Flight Paramedicine.

About the assessment examination

Language of the examination: The examination is in English.

Examination length 200 multiple choice questions displayed on a computer screen one question at a time. You will have 200 minutes to complete the exam.

All of the content in the exam is reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who ensure that it is correct, current, comprehensive, and challenging. Questions are constructed by instructors across the United States and reviewed by subject matter experts as well as a board-certified Emergency Physician.

Each exam is blueprinted to ensure that the content addresses the chief objectives of the US NHTSA curriculum. The 2015 AHA standards on resuscitation are used. The examination is **not** based on any textbook, but instead the learning objectives as published in the NHTSA curriculum documents for each level. The curriculum documents for each level can be found at www.EMS.gov

Students are scored in several topical categories (Airway, Cardiology, ECG (paramedic-only), Medical, Ob-Peds, Operations, Trauma) as well as overall.

Study References and suggestions

Knowing the information in your textbook will build a great foundation for what the assessment exams will require you to do: **apply the knowledge and think critically to solve real life EMS problems.** We want to prepare you for your national certification exam and more importantly caring for the real patient. We recommend completing the workbook that comes with the textbook your class is using. Additionally, we follow current (2015) American Heart Association guidelines.

There are typically 3 types of questions used on an exam. Understanding the construction will help increase your success.

* 1. You should... Questions that end in “You should” are asking you to apply knowledge treat a patient as you would in the field. You should select the best treatment option available from the choices given. If you are having trouble picking the best answer because more than one option seems “right,” imagine that there is a “next,” “first, or “most importantly” at the end of this type of question. Our examples: “You should next,” or “You should most important,” or “You should first.”
* 2. You should suspect... Questions that end in “You should suspect” are asking you to suspect underlying problems or conditions that are described in the question. Think of the condition that is the most life-threatening. You should suspect the most dangerous condition.
* 3. The most likely cause is... Questions that end in “The most likely cause” are asking you to think about the most probable cause or condition based on the symptoms. In this type of question, you are NOT being asked about what might be the worst possible problem, but rather the most likely.

You may not be used to seeing these types of critical thinking questions on exams, so here are some key test-taking tips to help you out:

* 1. **Read the question completely** and imagine what you should do to take care of the patient. Please do this, **before you look at the possible answers**.
* 2. Read **ALL** the possible answers completely and consider the **BEST** answer (since there maybe more than one plausible choice it is best not to think of the "correct" one).
* 3. Once you have read the entire question and all possible answers, pick the one you feel is **best**. Many times, your first guess will be the correct one.
* 4. The questions are shuffled, so don’t get discouraged if you hit some hard questions right away.
* We wish you the best on this exam, on your certification exam, and ultimately in your new career as an EMS professional!

These exams are uniquely designed to assess your knowledge and critical thinking ability. After you finish the exam, we hope you will come away with a good sense of what you mastered or areas for improvement. Please take advantage of the instructions below to give us feedback.

Some reference books that can be used to study from; but remember the exam does **not** come from any book and will not use the same key words or phrases as a text book. You must know the concepts.

For the EMT level exam:

* AAOS (2016) *Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured 10th Ed* JBL ISBN: 9781284085693
* AAOS (2013) *Emergency Medical Technician Transition Manual* JBL Pub ISBN: 9781449609153

For the AEMT level exam:

* AAOS (2014) *Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Transition Manual* JBL Pub ISBN: 9781449650193
* AAOS (2017) *Advanced Emergency Care of the Sick and Injured 2nd Ed* JBL Pub ISBN: 9781284075663

For the Paramedic level exam:

* AAOS (2012) *Nancy Caroline’s Emergency Care in the Streets 7th Ed* JBL Pub ISBN: 9781284087345
* Sanders, J et al (2010) *Mosby’s Paramedic Textbook 4th Ed* JBL Pub ISBN: 978fiS1284029543
* FISDAP (2017) *FISDAP Study Tools: Paramedic 1st Ed* JBL Pub ISBN: 9781284158151

Step by step application

There is a multipage application form that must be filled out entirely before you will be scheduled to take the exam. Online or paper??

Scheduling the exam date

After DCAS receives you application form back, DCAS will assign and notify you of the date, time and place of the exam.

The day of the examination, what to expect:

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before the exam start time. Your name will be on a list with the proctor. You will need to show your governmental issued photo identification at the door to be admitted. You will not be allowed to bring any books, cell phones, calculators, or any notes or references into the testing room with you. You will also not be allowed to bring in water bottles or food.

Cut score and results reporting

Within 48 hours your score will be reported to DCAS.

To maintain the security and integrity of our exams, we do not display or report the specific test-items that each student missed. A learning prescription will be provided based on the major subject areas (Airway, Cardiology, ECG (paramedic-only), Medical, Ob-Peds, Operations, Trauma) of the curriculum and topics within each area.

Those who are successful with the assessment exam will receive a certificate from American Health.

OSCE:

If you as successful on cognitive exam DCAS will schedule you to take the OSCE. There is a separate handbook explaining the OSCE exam that will be distributed at that time.

DCAS Licensing renewal:

It is entirely the authority to issue and renew your practice license.