

National Continued Competency Program FAQs

What is the National Continued Competency Program?

The National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) is an EMS training initiative that replaces the traditional refresher course model of continuing education with one that will evolve over time and promote continuous quality improvement (CQI), lifelong learning and individual self-assessment.

Why did NREMT and Vermont EMS switch to the NCCP?

The traditional refresher course model all EMS providers are familiar with was intended to reinforce what they had already learned. The NCCP changes over time to reflect improvements in patient care; the national requirements reflect the consensus of a multi-disciplinary task force consisting of regulatory, medical oversight and EMS operations experts. The program also allows local jurisdictions and individual EMS providers to focus on their specific, relevant needs.

Does NCCP apply to me if I am not NREMT certified?

All Vermont EMS personnel with licenses due to expire in 2016 and later will participate in the NCCP, effective immediately, regardless of their NREMT certification status. Providers with National Registry certification will renew online through the NREMT website; those without a National Registry certification will renew on applications provided by the Vermont Department of Health.

I have already begun entering credits on the National Registry website – will they transfer automatically or do I need to re-enter them?

You will not need to re-enter hours already reported on your online NREMT renewal application. All training hours can be moved to the NCCP by utilizing a “Move Hours” button.

How many hours are required at each level?

CHART: National Continued Competency Program - Hours by Level				
Provider Level	National Requirements (NCCR)	Local Requirements (LCCR)	Individual Requirements (ICCR)	Total Hours
Emergency Medical Responder	8	4	4	16
Emergency Medical Technician	20	10	10	40
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician	25	12.5	12.5	50
Paramedic	30	15	15	60

CHART: Local Continued Competency Requirements - Hours By Level				
Topic Areas	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Personal Protective Equipment	1	1	1	1
Professionalism/Cultural Competency	1	0.5	0.5	
Documentation	1	1	1	1
Patient Refusals	1	1	1	1
Termination of Resuscitation		1	1	
Pegasus		1	1	1
Spinal Injury Management		1	1	1
CPAP			1	1
Capnography			1	
Pharmacology			1	1
Advanced Airway Management			1	1
District/Agency Specific Topics	0	3.5	2	7
TOTALS:	4	10	12.5	15

How are National continued competency requirements (NCCR) selected?

Every 5 years, a national, multi-disciplinary task force of regulatory, medical oversight and EMS operations experts convenes to review EMS run data, practice analysis data (gathered by surveying EMS providers) and other research to determine which topics should be emphasized for the next 5 years.

How are Local continued competency requirements (LCCR) selected?

A portion of the local requirements for each level is determined by the Vermont Department of Health based on changes in protocols, skills that are newly added to each level or topics that merit special focus as part of continuous quality improvement. The remaining hours of the LCCR are determined by EMS districts, which may defer all or part of the requirements to EMS agencies.

How are Individual continued competency requirements (ICCR) selected?

The individual hours are determined entirely by providers themselves, ideally based on their areas of weakness. The National Registry makes available an online Assessment Guide during the final six months of your NREMT certification period to help you identify topics to focus on during your next certification period. The questions in the Assessment Guide have been as rigorously-tested as those in the certification exams, so its recommendations are very reliable.

Is the NREMT Assessment Guide a test?

No, the Assessment Guide is not a test. It asks you a series of questions to determine your level of strength in various topics and at the end, informs you if there are topics where additional training will be beneficial. There is no score, and your results have no impact on your NREMT certification or state license.

What happens if I fail the Assessment Guide?

The Assessment Guide is a reference tool, not a test. It does not provide a final score, so you cannot fail it.

Who else will see the results of my Assessment Guide?

You are the only person who sees the results of your Assessment Guide. If you belong to an EMS agency with more than 10 members, your training officer will receive de-identified, aggregate data from all members of the agency to assist them in determining agency-wide areas of weakness and plan the training schedule accordingly.

If I don't have a NREMT certification, am I eligible to use the Assessment Guide?

Currently, the Assessment Guide is only available to NREMT-certified providers. The Department of Health has asked the NREMT to make the Assessment Guide available to all Vermont EMS providers and is waiting for a decision.

Am I required to train on the areas of weakness identified in my Assessment Guide?

You are not obligated to use the findings of your Assessment Guide to select your individual continued competency topics. However, the Assessment Guide is a rigorously-tested, reliable reference tool, and you would be well-served to follow its recommendations.

My Assessment Guide did not identify any areas of weakness – do I still need to complete the individual continued competency requirements?

The individual continued competency requirements are not optional. If your Assessment Guide did not reveal any areas of weakness, you are free to select any topic(s) as long as you complete the required number of hours for your license level.

When does the program start?

The NCCP officially started in Vermont on July 1, 2015.

How do I document my hours?

If you have a National Registry certification, you will document your training hours on an online NREMT renewal application, available on the National Registry website. If you don't have a NREMT certification for license level, you will document your training on a Vermont license renewal application.

Is there a practical component to the NCCP?

As in the past, your training officer will need to verify your competency in certain practical skills, but there are no new skill requirements in the NCCP.

How many hours can I earn through distributive education?

Distributive education occurs when the student, the instructor and the educational materials are not all present at the same time, and students and instructors are not able to interact in real time. Examples include online, video and magazine-based training. The following chart describes how many hours of distributive education can be obtained at each level:

	National	State/Local	Individual	Total
EMR	3	3	4	10
EMT	7	7	10	24
AEMT	8	8	12.5	28.5
Paramedic	10	10	15	35

How can I apply refresher course hours to the NCCP?

All hours earned in a standard refresher course can be applied to the corresponding topics in the NCCP. To assist you, the Department of Health has produced a spreadsheet mapping refresher topics to the NCCP topics for each level. The spreadsheet can be found on our website.