

Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board

Examinations – Written EMALB2016-02 Responsible Branch: Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Branch Contact: Kim Fiege - Policy and Project Analyst Richard Simpson – Director 250-952-1211	Reference Information (Manual, page number, chapter):
	Replaces former policy: N/A
	Date Effective: January 1, 2016
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1. Policy Rationale & Purpose:

The purpose of the examination process is to ensure that candidates possess the necessary knowledge, abilities, skills aptitudes and judgements for entry to practice into the paramedic profession.

The Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators (COPR) has offered entry to practice examinations for Primary Care Paramedics (PCP) and Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP) since 2012. To date, five provinces have adopted the COPR entry to practice examination; Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. COPR continues to work with other provinces' toward the adoption of the COPR examinations. In November 2015, the EMA Licensing Board approved adopting the COPR entry to practice examination as the written component of BC's EMA Licensing process for the PCP and ACP licence categories.

COPR's entry to practice examination was developed through a rigorous test development process that meets or exceeds all professional standards as specified in the most recent edition of *American Psychological Association of Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* including the requirement of periodic evaluation. The COPR entry to practice written examination is aligned with the National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) for paramedics. More information on the NOCP can be found on the website for the [Paramedic Association of Canada](#).

COPR does not currently have a recognized entry to practice examination available for the EMR licence category, therefore the EMA Licensing Board written examination is approved and used for the EMR licence category. This examination is aligned with the NOCPs and administered by the EMA Licensing Branch.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all candidates applying to the EMA Licensing Board at the EMR, PCP, and ACP licence categories.

This policy applies to the candidates that enter a Licensing Board recognized Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program starting March 1, 2016 and all candidates that graduate from a Board recognized Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) program, after September 20, 2016.

This policy also applies to all internationally trained applicants that apply to the EMA Licensing Board after March 1, 2016, where the Licensing Board does not consider that the qualifications, examination or training required for the applicant's authorization to practise in the other jurisdiction are equivalent to those required in British Columbia.

3. Exemptions

All PCP candidates that enter a program before March 1, 2016 and ACP candidates that complete a program before September 20, 2016 are exempt from this policy and will complete the written examination administered by the EMA Licensing Branch.

4. Policy Statement:

PCP and ACP Licence Categories

The EMA Licensing Board has approved the COPR entry to practice written examination as the written component of the licensing examinations for the PCP and ACP licence categories. All candidates have three attempts to successfully pass the COPR entry to practice written examination.

Examination fees for PCPs and ACPS are established by, and payable to, COPR. **Licence** fees for PCPs and ACPS are established by the Emergency Health Services Regulation.

PCPs and ACPS applying for licensure in BC under Section 2(c)(ii) of the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation, are required to successfully complete the COPR entry to practice written examination administered by COPR as the written component of the examination process.

Candidates applying for licensure in BC under Section 3(3)(a) and (b) of the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation, may be required by the board to complete the COPR entry to practice examination provided by COPR as part of the licensure requirements.

The board may also require that a former PCP or ACP successfully complete COPR entry to practice examination in order to have their licence reinstated.

Candidates have three attempts to successfully complete the COPR entry to practice examination

EMR Licence Category

EMRs applying for licensure in BC under Sections 2(c)(ii) of the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation are required to successfully complete Board approved written examinations administered by the EMA Licensing Branch.

Candidates applying for licensure in BC under Section 3(3)(a) and (b) of the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation, may be required by to successfully complete Board approved written examinations administered by the EMA Licensing Branch.

The Board may also require that a former EMR successfully complete board approved written examinations administered by the EMA Licensing Branch in order to have their licence reinstated.

Effective October 1, 2016: The EMR written examination consists of 100 questions with two hours to complete and 80% is required to pass. Candidates have three attempts to successfully complete the EMR written examination.

There are no examination fees for EMRs. Licence fees for EMRs are established by the Emergency Health Services Regulation.

5. Legal Authority:

[Emergency Health Service Act Section 6\(5\)\(a\)](#)

[Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation Section 2\(ii\)](#)

[Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation Section 3\(3\)\(a\) and \(b\)](#)

6. Key Stakeholders:

- EMA Licensing exam candidates
- Ministry of Health
- Training Institutions delivering Board Recognized EMA Training Programs
- Paramedic Community
- BCEHS/BCAS
- CUPE 873

7. Resources:

- [National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics \(NOCP\)](#)
- [Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators \(COPR\)](#)
- [Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators \(Library/Archive\)](#)

Reviewed by the EMA Licensing Board: December 17, 2015

Approved: Richard Simpson



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