

Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board

Examinations - Practical EMALB2016-03	Reference Information (Manual, page number, chapter):
Responsible Branch: Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Branch	Replaces former policy: Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board Position Statement - EMA Licensing Exam Assessment Criteria
Contact: Kim Fiege – Policy and Project Analyst Richard Simpson – Director Phone: 250-952-1211	Date Effective: January 1, 2016
	Last Update: November 04, 2016
	Next Review Date: January 1, 2018
Keywords	E.g. examinations, regulation, licensure etc.

1. Policy Rationale & Purpose:

The EMA Licensing Board (Board) licenses candidates that have completed a training program recognized by the Board and passed the examinations approved by the Board. The Board also licenses applicants licensed in jurisdictions outside of BC and may require an applicant to complete an examination when the Board feels that the applicant’s qualifications, examinations or training required for their authorization to practise in the other jurisdiction are not equivalent to those required in BC for the category of licence sought.

The purpose of the practical examination is to ensure that candidates possess the necessary knowledge, abilities, skills aptitudes and judgements for entry to practice into the paramedic professions in BC specific to the guidelines developed for paramedic practice in BC.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all candidates applying for initial licensure under Sections 2 and 3 of the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation for the EMR, PCP and ACP licence categories. In addition, the board may apply this policy to a former EMA to successfully complete the practical examination in order to have their licence reinstated.

3. Exemptions

BC Trained candidates seeking initial licensure at the PCP and ACP licence levels that are required to successfully complete the COPR Entry to Practice examination are exempt from completing the EMALB practical examinations.

4. Policy Statement:

EMA licensing examinations assess candidates’ proficiency for a category of licence; that is, candidates must demonstrate that they possess sufficient skills, knowledge and judgement to enter practice safely in the licence category they apply for using the guidelines developed to guide paramedic practice in BC. EMA Licensing examinations are based on the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation [Schedule 1](#) and [Schedule 2](#) and follow the [BCAS Treatment Guidelines](#).

It is acceptable for candidates to perform skills in different ways as long as they demonstrate proficiency and safe practice.

In instances where BCAS treatment guidelines are silent on specific criteria required for licensing examinations, the EMA Licensing Branch will work with BCEHS and branch representatives to develop an EMA Licensing Board approved policy. Board approved policy to address specific gaps in examination criteria will be posted to the EMA Licensing Branch website.

Candidates are required to successfully complete two practical scenarios, which consist of one medical and one trauma call. All candidates have three attempts to successfully pass the practical examination.

When a candidate is unsuccessful in a practical scenario, **only one** remedial exam will be assigned as follows:

When a candidate fails...	The candidate is assigned...
1. a practical medical scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ another medical scenario if the candidate fails a critical component of the scenario (note: the scenario will not be of the same nature as the previous exam) <li style="text-align: center;">or ➤ a skill test if the candidate only fails to demonstrate competency in a skill (note: the remedial skill test will address only the skill competency that was not demonstrated in the previous exam)
2. a practical trauma scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ another trauma scenario if the candidate fails a critical component of the scenario (note: the scenario will not be of the same nature as the previous exam) <li style="text-align: center;">or ➤ a skill test if the candidate only fails to demonstrate competency in a skill (note: the remedial skill test will address only the skill competency that was not demonstrated in the previous exam)
3. a skill test	➤ another skill test of the same nature

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
- Training Institutions delivering Board-recognized EMA training programs
- EMA Licensing Branch Examiners
- BCEHS/BCAS

7. Resources:

EMA Licensing exams reference the following resources:

- EMA Regulations [Schedule 1](#) and [Schedule 2](#)
- BCAS Treatment Guidelines. <http://www.bctg.bcas.ca/>

EMA Licensing examinations may also reference guidelines including:

Recognized Guidelines

- The National Occupational Competencies Profile (NOCP) for paramedics
<http://paramedic.ca/nocp/>
- The American Heart Association Guidelines. <http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>
- The Canadian Diabetes Association Guidelines. <http://www.diabetes.ca/>
- The Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation Guidelines.
<https://resuscitation.heartandstroke.ca/>

Please also see the [Candidate Guide to Examinations](#) for specific information on scheduling and preparing for exams.

Reviewed by the EMA Licensing Board: September 27, 2016

Approved: Richard Simpson



Date approved: September 27, 2016

Drafted by: Kim Fiege