

Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board

EMALB 2021-03 EMR Challenge Policy Responsible Branch: Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Branch Contact: Exam program area getanexam@gov.bc.ca	Reference Information (Manual, page number, chapter):
	Replaces former policy: EMALB 2021-03 Pilot Policy EMR Challenge
	Date Effective: November 3, 2023
	Next Review Date: January 2025
Keywords	E.g., examinations, regulation, licensure etc.

1. Policy Rationale & Purpose:

BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) is currently taking a multi-faceted approach to addressing paramedic staffing challenges. In recognition that addressing these challenges supports better public safety in the form of improved service response, the EMA Licensing Board (EMALB) has adopted this policy to increase flexibility in the pathways to licensure without compromising standards for practitioner competency and patient safety.

These staffing challenges are exacerbated by the availability of BCEHS trained preceptors that invigilate the practicum portion of the Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program. The limited availability of preceptors has created a backlog of PCP students that have successfully completed the classroom portion of the PCP program and are waiting for precepting shifts.

Students that are currently enrolled in a Board-recognized PCP training program may have to wait several months to successfully complete their preceptorship and be eligible for PCP Board examinations, and PCPs that have recently graduated from the PCP program and completed their precepting, may have additional wait times to complete the Board-approved examinations for the licence category.

Once the PCP student has completed the classroom portion of the program including final exams, they have successfully completed training at a level higher than that of a recognized Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training program. PCP students awaiting precepting shifts **and/or** PCP Board licensing examinations may wish to gain employment and experience working as a licensed EMR for the months prior to meeting the requirements of PCP licensure.

The purpose of this policy is to grant EMR licensure to students of Board recognized PCP programs who have met specific criteria. This is a means to create additional pathways to EMA licensure within emergency health services by granting program recognition to Board recognized PCP programs for the EMR licence category. Licence applicants will be required to complete the EMR written and Jurisprudence examinations.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all PCP students that have successfully completed the classroom portion and final program examinations for a Board-recognized PCP program but have not completed their PCP Board examinations. PCP student may be about to start, have started, or have completed their PCP practicum.

PCP students that are currently enrolled in a Board recognized PCP program who have successfully completed the classroom portion and final program examinations may apply for EMR licensure by completing the requirements below.

Students who meet the above criteria and have previously attempted the PCP practical exams and been unsuccessful will need to undergo an additional review to be eligible for this pathway to EMR licensure. If the EMA Licensing Branch clinical advisor deems the errors on the evaluations for the practical exam to be related only to the PCP scope of practice, then an EMR licence may be issued upon successful completion of the requirements below. However, if the errors on the evaluations are deemed to be included in the EMR scope of practice, the applicant will be required to complete an EMR practical exam in addition to the requirements below.

3. Requirements:

To apply, the applicant must do the following steps:

Examinations

- Have their training institution submit verification that they have successfully completed the PCP classroom portion and final examinations of the PCP program to getanexam@gov.bc.ca.
- Submit electronically the [Application for Licence](#) form to schedule your examinations.
- Obtain a [BCeID](#). **Please use only lowercase characters in your BCeID username.** (If you already have a BCeID and password or an IDIR you may skip this step).
- Please use your BCeID username and password to create a new account in the [online learning system](#) (it may take up to 2 weeks to be granted access).
- Successfully complete both the online EMR written and Jurisprudence examinations.

Licensing

- Submit the [Acknowledgement of Scope of Practice form](#).
- [Pay the applicable licence fees](#) (\$50).
- Undergo a [criminal record check](#) within 12 months of the licence application.

4. Legal Authority:

- EMA Licensing Board Licensing Policy
- EMA Regulations [Section 2](#)

5. Key Stakeholders:

- BCEHS
- BC Training Institutions
- PCP Students awaiting precepting
- PCP graduates awaiting examinations

Reviewed by the EMA Licensing Board on March 8, 2023

Approved Wendy Vowles:



Date approved: March 8, 2023

Drafter: Kim Fiege/Samantha Creamer

Date	Author	Details
2021-12-15	Kfiege	New pilot policy approved by the Board
2022-01-13	Kfiege	Removed mention of practical exam in the requirements as it was a typo. Grammatical errors corrected. Updated field code for acknowledgement form
2023-02-14	Screamer	Removed any reference to the policy being a pilot
2023-11-03	Screamer	Policy removed, updated links