

The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners: What this means for examiners

Natalie P. Hartenbaum, MD, MPH
ACOEM Webinar
May 17, 2012

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners History

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Study
 - Feasibility of Certifying (Designating) Medical Examiners for Interstate Commercial Vehicle Drivers - June 1978
- Definition of Medical Examiner Expanded to include licensed health care professionals licensed by their state to perform examinations – 1992
- FMCSA Negotiated Rulemaking - Merger of Medical Certification and Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Processes. 1996–97

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners History

- Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999
 - Registry discussed but was not in final rule
- NTSB recommendation 2001 and Most Wanted List 2003
- SAFETEA – LU – Legal Basis for current rule
 - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, Aug. 10, 2005

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners History – Moving Forward

- Public Meetings and listening sessions 2005-2006
- Role Delineation Study – 2005 - 2007
- WIPT
 - Training and testing
- Proposed Rule – December 11, 2008
- Webinars and meetings including November 8, 2011
- Final Rule – April 20, 2012

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners NTSB Recommendations the NRCME Addresses

- Develop a comprehensive medical oversight program for interstate commercial drivers that contains the following program elements:
 - Individuals performing medical examinations for drivers are qualified to do so and are educated about occupational issues for drivers. (H-01-17)
 - A tracking mechanism is established that ensures that every prior application by an individual for medical certification is recorded and reviewed. (H-01-18)
 - Medical certification regulations are updated periodically to permit trained examiners to clearly determine whether drivers with common medical conditions should be issued a medical certificate. (H-01-19)
- Individuals performing examinations have specific guidance and a readily identifiable source of information for questions on such examinations. (H-01-20)
- The review process prevents, or identifies and corrects, the inappropriate issuance of medical certification. (H-01-21)

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 - Examiners

- Examiners -any licensed healthcare provider licensed by their state to perform physical examinations
 - Not exempted from training and testing - Aviation medical examiners, board certified MD or DO, certified by specialty society (AAOHN), participants as subject matter experts in National Registry development or having a working knowledge of the DOT requirements and guidance
- ALL drivers to be certified by an examiner on the NRCME within 24 months from the effective date of the rule
 - No phase in period
- Anticipated that 40,000 medical examiners will be required

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 - Examiners

- Carriers are only required to ensure that the driver was issued a medical certificate by an ME on the National Registry and place a note to that effect in the driver qualification file.
 - Not required to monitor ME performance
- States will not be required to cross-check ME National Registry numbers with the National Registry database when processing driver medical certifications

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 - Training

- Initial Training - Length
 - FMCSA indicated in the proposed rule indicated they thought training could be completed in one day
 - Comments that more material than could be addressed in a single day
 - One commenter indicated he thought it take five or six, six-hour days to complete all the material
 - FMCSA would not indicate how long training should be
 - Could be composed of self-paced, on-line training; the traditional classroom model; or a blended format.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 - Re-Training -

- Proposed rule - periodic training every three years
 - Completion of the initial training and recertification every twelve years
- Final Rule – ME whose certification has not lapsed
 - Periodic training every 5 (not sooner than four) years
 - Provided by FMCSA online at no charge
 - Recertification every ten (not sooner than every 9) years
 - No requirement to complete the initial training.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 - Training Programs

- Only training programs that have been accredited by a nationally recognized medical profession accrediting organization to provide continuing education units will be eligible to provide the required training to MEs
- Training programs are not required to grant CME for the CDME training

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 - Testing

- Testing organization will be required to use a test provided by the FMCSA
- Testing could be either in person or online
 - If online subject to specific security and privacy requirements
- Certification examination may be taken only once every 30 days
 - No more than three years after completing the training.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 – Recordkeeping and Reporting

- MEs electronically transmit to the FMCSA Chief Medical Examiner on a monthly basis the name of the CMV driver and a numerical identifier for any completed Medical Examination Report whether or not the driver was certified
 - Form, MCSA-5850, CMV Driver Medical Examination Results – expected to be online
- MEs to retain the Medical Examination Report for each examination performed and the medical examiner's certificate for *at least* three years, consistent with any state or local requirement for medical record retention.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 – Removal from Registry

- Voluntary
 - Submit request to Director, Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards – accepted and removal effective immediately
 - Will not accept if a Notice of proposed removal has been issued
- Involuntary – Notice of proposed removal
 - Examiner may submit response no later than 30 days after issuance
 - Detailed process for review and correction and reinstatement
- Emergency removal

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 – Removal from Registry

- FMCSA may remove a medical examiner from the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners when/if a ME fails to meet or maintain the qualifications as outlined in the regulation. The reasons for removal may include, but are not limited to:
 - Failure to comply with the requirements for continued listing on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners as outlined in the regulation
 - Errors, omissions, or other indications of improper certification of an operator in either the completed Medical Examination Reports or the medical examiner's certificates

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 – Removal from Registry

- Issuance of a medical examiner's certificate to an operator of a commercial motor vehicle who failed to meet the applicable standards at the time of the examination
- The medical examiner fails to comply with the examination requirements specified in the FMCSA regulations
- The medical examiner falsely claims to have completed training in physical and medical examinations standards

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE				
I certify that I have examined _____ in accordance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR 391.41, 391.49) and with knowledge of the driving duties, that this person is qualified, and, if applicable, only when:				
<input type="checkbox"/> wearing corrective lenses	<input type="checkbox"/> driving within an exempt territory state (49 CFR 391.42)			
<input type="checkbox"/> wearing hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/> accompanied by a Skill Performance Evaluation Certificate (SPE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> accompanied by a _____, naïve/internship	<input type="checkbox"/> qualified by operation of 49 CFR 391.64			
The information I have provided regarding this physical examination is true and complete. A complete examination form with any attachment embodies my findings completely and correctly, and is on file in my office.				
SIGNATURE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER	TELEPHONE	DATE		
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S NAME (PRINT)	<input type="checkbox"/> MD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> Physician Assistant	<input type="checkbox"/> Chiropractor <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Practice Nurse <input type="checkbox"/> Other Practitioner		
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE NO. ISSUING STATE	NATIONAL REGISTRY NO.			
SIGNATURE OF DRIVER	INTRASTATE ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	CDL <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	DRIVER'S LICENSE NO.	STATE
ADDRESS OF DRIVER				
MEDICAL CERTIFICATION EXPIRATION DATE				

NRCME
Draft Guidance for Core Curriculum Specifications

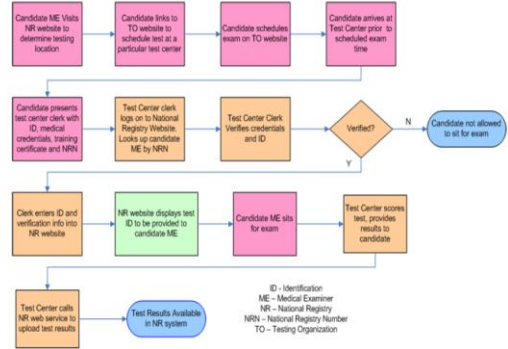
- (1) Background, rationale, mission and goals of the FMCSA medical examiner's role in reducing crashes, injuries and fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles
- (2) Familiarization with the responsibilities and work environment of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) operations
- (3) Identification of the driver and obtaining, reviewing, and documenting driver medical history, including prescription and over-the-counter medications
- (4) Performing, reviewing and documenting the driver's medical examination

NRCME

Draft Guidance for Core Curriculum Specifications

- (5) Performing, obtaining and documenting diagnostic tests and obtaining additional testing or medical opinion from a medical specialist or treating physician
- (6) Informing and educating the driver about medications and non-disqualifying medical conditions that require remedial care
- (7) Determining driver certification outcome and period for which certification should be valid
- (8) FMCSA reporting and documentation requirements

Round-Trip Process from Registry to Taking the Test



Examination Content –

Information from Training and Testing Meeting

- Role Delineation Study identified key content
- 10 person WIPT developed the examination
 - 2 from each group
- 120 multiple choice questions
 - 100 which have been previously validated will be scored
- Regulations and guidance issued by FMCSA
 - But Training may include other material if so indicated
- Expectation is that examiners have results examination completed

Responses from Training and Certification Webinar

- The FMCSA will not approve or credential training organizations but will approve testing organization.
- Hope that testing will essentially be available daily.
- Every provider in a medical group will need to be trained and certified,
 - Certification is for the individual, not the group.
- The Medical Examiner Handbook is in the process of being updated.
 - Expected that once updated, it will be published for public comment.

Responses from Training and Certification Webinar

- Training and testing organization will set their own fees, will receive no reimbursement from the FMCSA
- There is no specific wording requirement for the training certificate.
- Examiners may only perform medical examinations in the states in which they are licensed to perform medical examinations
 - But can examine drivers whose CDL may be from a different state

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Frequently Asked Questions - Requirements of ME

- Submit Form MCSA-5850 for each driver examined electronically every month via the National Registry website
 - Even if no exams were performed during the month
- Retain original completed Medical Examination Reports for all drivers examined and a copy or electronic version of the driver's medical examiner's certificate for at least 3 years from the date of the examination;
- Submit to periodic audits;
- Provide FMCSA with medical examination report forms and other documents as requested;

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Frequently Asked Questions - Requirements of ME

- Continue to be licensed, registered, or certified in accordance with the applicable State laws and regulations of each State in which the ME performs examinations with a scope of practice that includes performing physical examinations;
- Submit any changes in the application information to FMCSA within 30 days of the change;
- Report to FMCSA any information related to any termination, suspension, or withdrawal of your license, registration, or certificate under State law; and
- Maintain documentation of State licensing, registration, or certification and completion of all required training.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Frequently Asked Questions

- To avoid potential conflict of interest and to protect the integrity of the certification test, testing providers cannot also be training providers.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Frequently Asked Questions - Fees

- ME candidate is responsible for paying any fees charged by the training and testing organizations.
- FMCSA does not establish nor regulate training or testing fees.
- Training and testing organizations are not reimbursed by FMCSA

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 Schedule

- As of the date of publication (April 20, 2012):
 - Training organizations develop curriculum according to FMCSA guidelines.
 - Training organizations start to offer training to medical examiners when they are ready.
 - Test delivery organizations visit the National Registry website and view the [Administrative Manual for Testing Organizations](#) to learn about the Certification Test Criteria.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 Schedule

- 30 days after publication, the effective date of the rule (May 21, 2012):
 - National Registry now available online
 - Training organizations register to be listed on the National Registry when they are ready to offer training. (Training Organization Form can be found on the website)
 - Training organizations will be listed on the National Registry website

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 Schedule

- 30 days after publication, the effective date of the rule (May 21, 2012):
 - Medical examiners find organizations that offer medical examiner training and complete the training.
 - Test delivery organizations apply to become an approved test delivery organization, submit their policies and procedures and undergo a security site visit when they are ready.
 - Once approved, test delivery organizations will provide test center locations and/or online testing site.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 Schedule

- Four months after publication date (August 20, 2012):
 - Medical examiners register on the National Registry and take the Certification Test from an FMCSA-approved test center listed on the National Registry.
 - Once medical examiners successfully pass the test, they will be listed on the National Registry.
 - Drivers and carriers may search for certified medical examiners via the National Registry.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) - Final Rule, April 20, 2012 Schedule

- Two years after the effective date (May 21, 2014):
 - All medical examiners who wish to conduct FMCSA medical examinations for CMV drives must be trained according to the FMCSA regulations and guidelines, pass a certification test and be listed on the National Registry.
 - All CMV drivers seeking a medical examination/certificate must use a certified medical examiner on the National Registry.

ACOEM and the NRCME

- ACOEM WILL be providing training which will meet the requirements
 - Traditional course
 - Planned - July 20, 2012 in Chicago, September 28 in Philadelphia, November 9, 2012 Atlanta, early 2013 – West Coast. Additional dates TBD
 - Distance learning training in development
 - Planned availability beginning August 2012
 - Arrangements being made for those who have taken ACOEM course in past 2 years
- ACOEM WILL NOT be providing testing

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

- Training and examination to focus on MINIMAL STANDARDS
 - But can include other relevant information
- What will be best practices
- Liability issues?
 - ADA
 - Crashes



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

Connect Us | Site Tools | FMCSA | FMCSA Home | 2007 on

Search All FMCSA Sites

Home | Conferences | Training and Testing | Medical Examiners | Drivers and Carriers | Rules and Regulations

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS
nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov

The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) is a new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) program. It requires all medical examiners (MEs) who wish to perform physical examinations for interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers to be trained and certified in FMCSA physical qualification standards. Medical examiners who have completed the training and successfully passed the test are included in an online directory on the National Registry website.

[Learn More](#)

[Click here to view the National Registry schedule](#)

Attention: Training and Testing Organizations!
Be Involved! [View Details](#)

Alerts

- Testing and Training Webinar
- ME Sample Training
- Core Curriculum Guidance
- Training Organization Manual
- Final Rule

Resource Center
Information, Links, and Answers to Common Questions

- Medical Examiner Handbook
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Other Useful Related Links

Stay Connected
Join the National Registry Mailing List! [Sign Up](#)

Other Useful Information

National Registry Web site:
nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov

Phone 617-494-3003