

Nevada State Board of **NURSING**

EMS-RN Information

The Board approved some changes to requirements to the application for certification of EMS-RNs. Registered nurses who apply for EMS-RN certification are required to possess current certification in advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, and a course in prehospital care of the trauma patient. Beginning July 1, 2011, nurses who desire EMS-RN certification also need to show completion of a course at least 12 hours long that prepares them to function in the field.

If the RN does not hold EMS-RN certification, this course should be offered as part of orientation for the RN who is hired by a program that does ground and/or air transport in Nevada. Most programs already offer this content and much more. These programs may need to highlight certain content in order to show the Board that these topics are covered. This content must be taught by a current EMS-RN or currently certified Nevada EMT of any level.

If the RN has ever been certified as an EMT in the state of Nevada, he or she does not have to show successful completion of this course, but must show proof of current or previous certification as an EMT in Nevada.

This is the outline for the course:

EMS-RN orientation course

Scene safety and situational awareness	180 min
Electrical hazards	
Fire hazards	
Environmental hazards	
Highway and structural hazards	
Infection control	
Mass Casualty Incident (ICS 100)	180 min
Definition of an MCI	
Initial scene size-up	
MCI activation	
Roles and responsibilities in an MCI	
START Triage	
Hazardous materials awareness	240 min
Types of hazardous materials	
DOT classifications and placards	
Safety zones	
Personal protection	
Equipment decontamination	
Shipping papers/MSDS	
Patient extrication, packaging, and evacuation	240 min
Patient access	
Spinal immobilization	
Splinting	
Traction devices	
Long board and KED extrication	
Patient evacuation, egress	
Radio operation	30 min
Basic radio function and operation	
Radio report	

Nevada State Board of NURSING

Roles of responders	30 min
Fire department	
Law enforcement	
Levels of EMT providers	
Legal Aspects	60 min
NRS 450B – Emergency Medical services	
NRS and NAC Chapter 632 – Nurse Practice Act	
State EMS and NSBN interaction	
Medical direction, use of protocols, orders	
Role of the EMS-RN	
Supervision, delegation, and cooperation	
Documentation	
	Total 720 min (12 hours)

Discussion of Course Content

Scene safety: EMT textbooks cover this information

Mass Casualty Incident (ICS 100): This entire course is available on line at the following FEMA web site: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100a.asp>

Hazardous materials awareness: EMT textbooks cover this information

Patient extrication, packaging, and evacuation: EMT textbooks cover this information

Radio operation: The basics are covered in EMT textbooks, but it would be important to include specific information about medical channels and frequencies that the nurse may be using in Nevada, the expectations of facilities where they may be traveling, and basic/emergency use of aircraft radios if the nurse will be flying

Roles of responders: An EMT textbook will have the basics, but it is important to discuss types of responders in your catchment area. In Nevada, EMS-RNs on scene interact with all levels of EMT, as well as first responders, firefighters, law enforcement, physicians, and nurses. Content should include what care to expect from different providers, and where those providers are most likely to be found. Discuss scene control and what responsibilities EMS-RNs are expected to assume. Define the role of the EMS-RN when working with an EMT partner and other EMTs on scene

Legal Aspects: Content should include information in NRS 450B *Emergency Medical Services* and NAC 632 *Nurse Practice Act and Practice Decisions* that affect the function of an EMS-RN in the field. Discuss the legal definitions of “medical director”, “protocols”, “standing orders”, “supervision”, “delegation”, “cooperation.” Include information regarding from whom EMS-RNs and EMTs can take orders, and how to document these orders.

Nevada State Board of **NURSING**

Accepted Trauma Certifications

When the RN is applying for EMS-RN certification, the RN must submit four items: a copy of current certification in 1) ACLS, 2) PALS, 3) approved pre-hospital trauma course (TNATC, ITLS, PHTLS), AND 4) proof of completion of the course content outlined above, including the name and credentials of the instructor.

Trauma courses approved for EMS-RN certification are Transport Nurse Advanced Trauma Course (Provider and Advanced Provider), International Trauma Life Support, and Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support. Courses that are NOT accepted include, among others, Trauma Nursing Core Course, Advanced Trauma Life Support, and Course in Advanced Trauma Nursing.

EMS-RN Skills

Per NAC 632.225 *Additional duties in area of specialization*, if a transport program allows nurses to perform skills that are not included in the Nevada Nurse Practice Act, such as central line insertion, chest tube insertion, or pericardiocentesis, that program must maintain files that show:

- 1) The program has a written policy or procedure for that skill, signed by the program's medical director.
- 2) The skill is standard for the specialty of transport nursing. How do you show that? Keep copies of at least three nationally accepted resources, such as the ASTNA Flight and Ground Transport Nursing Core Curriculum, Standards for Critical Care and Specialty Fixed-Wing, Rotor, or Ground Transport, TNATC textbook, and/or any nationally published transport nursing textbook, such as ASTNA Patient Transport: Principles and Practice (Air & Surface Patient Transport: Principles and Practice).
- 3) Each EMS-RN providing patient care in that program has received training in that skill and is evaluated in that skill annually.

Reformatted from an article previously published in Nevada Nursing News by Susan Moore, MSN, APRN, EMS-RN, former member of the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee.

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