

Pre-Hospital  
Emergency Care  
Council



National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology

# **NQEMT** Examination Handbook

*6<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council protects the public by independently specifying, reviewing, maintaining and monitoring standards of excellence for the delivery of quality pre-hospital emergency care for people in Ireland.*

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) is a non-departmental public body with responsibility for the conduct of the National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technician (NQEMT) examinations for all levels of pre-hospital emergency care practice: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Paramedic (P) and Advanced Paramedic (AP).

Information in this handbook represents a comprehensive account of current policies and procedures as well as providing general guidance to the NQEMT EMT examination. This edition supersedes information contained in any previously published editions and should be read in conjunction with the most current information available on the PHECC website.

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**Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council**

Abbey Moat House

Abbey Street

Naas

Co Kildare

Ireland

T: + 353 (0)45 882042

F: + 353 (0)45 882089

E: [info@phecc.ie](mailto:info@phecc.ie)

W: [www.phecc.ie](http://www.phecc.ie)

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## SECTION 1 General Information

### Introduction

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) is an independent statutory body with responsibility for standards in education and training in the field of pre-hospital emergency care in Ireland.

PHECC was established by the Minister for Health and Children by Statutory Instrument 109 of 2000 (PHECC Establishment Order). PHECC's responsibilities were enhanced by Statutory Instrument 575 of 2004 (PHECC Amendment Order) and the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007.

PHECC oversees the NQEMT examination process from setting the standard for course content, writing examination questions, training and approving examiners, marking examination papers, issuing results and awarding the National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology (NQEMT). We are committed to working in partnership with our training providers in order to deliver a high quality examination that is efficient, fair and accessible.

The NQEMT examination is a benchmark process, which assesses the knowledge and skills for competent practice as an emergency medical technician, paramedic and advanced paramedic. PHECC is empowered to award the NQEMT to successful candidates. Holders of the NQEMT apply to PHECC for entry on to the national professional register for pre-hospital emergency care practitioners.

This examination handbook aims to acquaint candidates and recognised training institutions with the examination process, how it is conducted and the specific focus of each of its components. This will ensure candidates are prepared appropriately.

### Legal Basis

PHECC is charged with responsibility for the conduct of examinations with respect to pre-hospital emergency medical technology.

Extract from Establishment Order (S.I. No 109 of 2000)/Amendment Order (S.I. No 575 of 2004):

Article 4. The functions of the Council shall be to

- (a) conduct examinations leading to the award of the NQEMT at the level of competence of emergency medical technician, paramedic or advanced paramedic, as the case may be.
- (b) award the NQEMT to such persons as have completed a recognised course under sub-article (h) (i) in a recognised institution and have passed the relevant examination conducted by the Council pursuant to sub-article (b) of this Article.

Article 31. The Council may charge such fees as may, from time to time, be determined by the Council, with the consent of the Minister, for

- (a) the admission for any person to an examination conducted by the Council pursuant to Article 4(b) of this Order.

## Data Protection

PHECC administers its responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1988 and the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003 in accordance with the principles outlined in the Act.

All personal information held by PHECC will be retained in accordance with current data protection legislation and identifiable data collected will not be released outside of the organisation.

## Retention of Examination Materials

The retention schedule will be reviewed periodically in light of experience and any legal or other relevant indications:

De-identified electronic analysis of examination results will be retained indefinitely for quality improvement purposes

1. All examination material will be retained for current month plus 12 months
2. All examination material will be destroyed by confidential shredding
3. All examination appeals material will be retained for the current year plus 3 years
4. All examination appeal material will be destroyed by confidential shredding

## Examination Validity and Reliability

The Examination Quality Group is responsible for ensuring the validity and reliability of the NQEMT examination content and facilitating continuous quality improvement of the examination function.

Details are outlined in the [Terms of Reference for the Examination Quality Group](#).

## Examiners Role

Examiners are responsible for: i) assessing candidates at Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and ii) correcting short written answer (SWA) papers.

Details are outlined in the [Terms of Reference for the Examiner Panel](#).

## Recognised Training Institution role

- A PHECC recognised institution is an education and training institution that has been approved to deliver courses which have been approved by PHECC under Article 4 (a) of the PHECC Establishment Order.
- PHECC recognition as a training institution is a mandatory step before one or all of the following PHECC-recognised courses can be delivered: Cardiac First Response, Emergency First Response, Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic and Advanced Paramedic.
- PHECC-recognised institutions commit to delivering pre-hospital emergency care courses in accordance with [PHECC's Education and Training Standards](#) and current [Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)
- Recognised Institution will be referred to as training institution throughout this handbook.

## SECTION 2 Before the Examination

### Eligibility to sit the Examination

To be eligible to sit the NQEMT examination you must:

- complete the relevant PHECC recognised course or be requested to sit the exam as part of PHECC's recognition process. This process is associated with recognition of equivalence of professional qualifications in pre-hospital emergency care obtained outside the jurisdiction.
- complete an exam application form and ensure that it is stamped and signed by the training institution and submitted to PHECC **no later than 28 days prior to the date of the exam**. Candidates are advised that completed applications are submitted to PHECC by the training institution on behalf of the student **no later than 28 days prior to the date of the examination**. If applying for special considerations during the exam supporting documentation must also be submitted with the exam application form. (See below).
- submit the appropriate fee, details outlined in the [current schedule of fees](#) with the exam [application form](#).

### Special Needs Candidates

A candidate who can provide evidence demonstrating that he/she has specific learning difficulty/difficulties may apply for special consideration when sitting the Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) exam. Considerations available include provision of a reader, separate room, and/or an additional 20 minutes to complete the exam, based on the recommendations outlined in their report.

Applications for special consideration will only be accepted when the following conditions are met:

1. Notification of specific learning difficulty and application for special consideration is submitted **with** the exam application **no later than 28 days prior to the date of the exam**.
2. Application is accompanied by a relevant report prepared by a suitably-qualified medical practitioner.
3. Application must detail the specific learning difficulty and the special consideration(s) required.
4. In the case of a dyslexic candidate, a psycho-educational assessment report by an educational psychologist must be submitted **with** the application.
5. Reports in support of the application are not more than 5 years old.

### Temporary Incapacity

In the case of a temporary incapacity (eg sudden illness, accident, other extenuating circumstances), which occurs after the exam application has been submitted, the candidate must inform PHECC in writing as soon as possible **before** the exam date, enclosing a medical certificate supporting the claim.

An application for deferral will only be considered when accompanied by an original medical certificate. Scans, photocopies, or faxed copies will not be accepted.

A candidate, who does not attend at a scheduled sitting of an MCQ (by reason of a medical certificate), may only apply to undergo the next repeat EMT MCQ exam. Candidates who do not avail of the next scheduled repeat NQEMT EMT exam - MCQ or OSCE - will forfeit their fee for that exam.

Failure to furnish an appropriate medical certificate will result in a non-refund of exam fees and will be regarded as a failed exam attempt.

In contingent circumstances (e.g. family bereavement), special consideration may be given.

### Application Process

Each candidate is responsible for ensuring that his/her completed exam application has been submitted to PHECC within the required timeframe. Failure to submit a fully-completed application form will result in the application being refused.

There is an onus on the candidate to present themselves at their scheduled time for their exam.

A candidate's signature on the application verifies that all sections of the exam handbook have been read and understood and that he/she is committed to abiding by the terms and conditions (see Section 3).

Unsuccessful candidates may apply to repeat the exam by meeting the current entry requirements and submitting another application with the appropriate fee

Examination dates can be viewed on the examinations calendar available on the [PHECC website](#).

## Fees

The candidate must submit the appropriate fee according to the [current schedule of fees](#) for the NQEMT exam. This fee is non-refundable and can be paid by individual candidates via cheque/postal order to PHECC's accounts department or online using PayPal's electronic payments facility.

## Recognised Training Institution role

Prior to each examination the training institution must ensure that:

- a course commencement notification form has been submitted to PHECC once a course begins.
- fully completed candidate exam applications have been sent to PHECC no later than 28 days prior the agreed examination date. Failure to submit a fully-completed application form, with supporting documentation where relevant, will result in the exam application being refused.
- candidates are issued with their exam details, including candidate number, exam dates, time and location, as well as exam date cancellations as advised by PHECC (should they occur).
- candidates have read and understand the terms & conditions (see Section 3) relating to attendance at the exam and that non-compliance will result in the candidate being asked to leave the exam.
- candidates are aware of the [MCQ demonstration](#) facility on [www.phecc.ie](http://www.phecc.ie)
- all exam candidates have completed the relevant recognised course as currently approved by PHECC or have been requested to sit the exam as part of the recognition process.
- each candidate has, or will have, undertaken the recognised course at the level appropriate to the exam being applied for and if this is not the case then it must be verified to PHECC by email seven days prior to the exam date.
- a suitable exam centre is available and secured (a minimum of 6 weeks prior to the exam) as per current examination facility specification.
- all administrative and logistical requirements are met, including the supply of examiners, assisting practitioners and patients.

## Section 3 During the Examination

PLEASE READ THESE TERMS & CONDITIONS CAREFULLY AS FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE EXAMINATION PROCESS.

### Terms & Conditions

1. A candidate found to be in breach of any NQEMT rule or regulation will be asked to leave the exam and will forfeit any results from other sections of the exam.
2. Candidates may, on occasion, be required to be separated in groups for a limited period. This requirement depends on the number of candidates for the exam. Candidates will be informed of this on the day.
3. Candidates will be **supervised at all times** during the course of the exam.
4. Candidates will be notified of their final results within 28 days of the exam completion date. Results are expressed as percentages awarded. Results for the EMT MCQ examination will be emailed to each candidate as soon as possible after the completion of the MCQ exam (usually within 24-hours).
5. PHECC is not responsible for supervision of personal items. Candidates leaving personal items in the exam centre do so at their own risk.
6. PHECC is not responsible for any catering arrangements for candidates.
7. PHECC reserve the right to determine if circumstances arise which warrant the cancellation, and subsequent rescheduling of an exam.
8. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that they fully understand the terms and conditions under which they apply to sit the NQEMT examination.
9. PHECC accept no responsibility where applicants ignore, or do not fully comply with these terms.

### Conduct during the Examination

1. It is the candidate's responsibility to present themselves at the designated exam centre.
2. Candidates not attending at the designated time for exam may not be admitted into the exam.
3. Candidates who do not attend an exam will be deemed unsuccessful at that sitting and will be entitled to apply for a 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt. Should a candidate fail to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt, s/he will be required to repeat the complete training course prior to re-applying to sit the exam.
4. All candidates will be required to sign an attendance book upon arrival.
5. Photo ID must be produced to gain admission to the exam.
6. Uniforms, emblems, badges or any paraphernalia that may identify a service or level of competence must not be worn while attending for exam.
7. Your NQEMT exam number is required to access the computer-based examination and at every skills station.
8. Mobile phones or any form of electronic device are not permitted in the examination centre **under any circumstances**. Any candidate found to be in breach of this rule will be asked to leave the exam and will be deemed unsuccessful in all sections of the exam.
9. Text books, written notes etc. are not allowed in the examination rooms or on the OSCE circuits.
10. Candidates are not allowed to communicate with each other in the exam rooms or OSCE circuits.
11. Candidates who fail to adhere to this condition will be asked to leave the exam and will be deemed unsuccessful in all sections of the exam.
12. Where a candidate, during any part of the exam, wishes to query any matter relating to the conduct at the exam, examiners/invigilators and/or the application of the rules of the exam, he/she should raise the matter with the exam coordinator on the day.
13. Candidates must obey all instructions given by the exam coordinator or any other member of PHECC staff.



## Examination Security

Any candidate found breaching the security of the examination shall be deemed unsuccessful in all sections of the exam.

Candidates should note that the following may be sufficient cause to terminate participation in the exam, to invalidate the results of an exam, to withhold or revoke scores, or to take other appropriate action:

1. The giving or receiving of aid in the exam as evidenced either by observation or by statistical analysis of answers of one or more participants in the exam.
2. The unauthorised access to, possession of, reproduction, disclosure or use of any materials, including, but not limited to, examination questions or answers before, during or after the exam.
3. The offering of any benefit to any agent of PHECC in return for any aid or assistance in taking an exam.
4. The engaging in irregular behaviour in connection with the administration of the exam. Irregular behaviour which may be cause for invalidation of the exam or the taking of disciplinary action, includes, but is not limited to:
  - referring to books, notes, or other devices at any time during the exam. This prohibited material includes written information or information transferred by electronic, acoustical, or other means
  - transfer of any information or signals between candidates during the exam. This prohibition includes any transfer of information between the candidate and any other person at any time during the testing period, including during OSCE station change-over or OSCE rest stations
  - attempting to view the answer booklet of another candidate during the exam
  - permitting another candidate to view one's answer book or otherwise assisting another candidate in the exam. The candidates involved will be deemed unsuccessful in all sections of the exam
  - taking any exam materials outside the examination centre. All exam materials are the property of PHECC and must be left in the room at the end of the exam.

PHECC may also require a candidate to repeat the exam if presented with sufficient evidence that the security of the exam has been compromised, notwithstanding the absence of any evidence of a candidate's personal involvement in such activities.

### OSCE Re-sits

Candidates who are unsuccessful in one skill station will be offered a re-sit on the same day. Such candidates will be required to re-sit the unsuccessful station only.

Candidates who do not avail of the same day re-sit at the scheduled time will be deemed unsuccessful. Such candidates will be offered the opportunity to repeat the OSCE at a repeat NQEMT EMT OSCE only if they have a second attempt remaining.

Candidates who are unsuccessful in more than one skill station will be automatically deemed unsuccessful in the OSCE exam and will not be offered a same day re-sit. Such candidates will be offered the opportunity to repeat the OSCE at a repeat NQEMT examination if they have a second attempt remaining.

## Recognised Training Institution role – Examination Centre

The overall responsibility for the provision of exam facilities lies with the training institution. While local factors and conditions may determine the exact nature of the facilities being provided, training institutions must endeavour to comply with the agreed specification.

Generally, training institutions are responsible for

### Personnel

- Examiner, assisting practitioner and patient registration.
- Provide personnel to direct candidates when required (e.g. if stations on different floors etc.).
- Direct personnel for candidate supervision.
- Provide refreshments/catering for exam personnel (PHECC staff, examiners, assisting practitioners and patients) and patient placement).

### Equipment

- OSCE station set up, check and troubleshoot (including equipment, signage).
- Signage must not be in place until the exam centre is secured by the PHECC examination coordinator.
- Provide *moulage* (kit, application and appropriate dress) for patients.
- Organisation and supply of all OSCE equipment.

### ICT

- PA System (hire, set up).
- IT facility for MCQ is in accordance with the [current agreed specification](#).

## Section 4 After the Examination

### Results

Candidates will be notified of their results within 28 days of the exam completion date via the email address provided by the candidate to PHECC. Results are expressed as percentages awarded. Results for the MCQ examination will be emailed to each candidate as soon as possible after the completion of the MCQ exam (usually within 24-hours).

NQEMT certificates will be awarded to successful candidates within 28 days of the results being issued.

### Credits

After the first attempt, the successful portion(s) of the exam, either MCQ or OSCE, will remain valid until a repeat attempt of the unsuccessful sections has been taken. In the case of the NQEMT EMT examination, candidates must be successful in the MCQ examination prior to attempting the OSCE examination.

Candidates will be offered one repeat exam attempt only of either MCQ or OSCE. NQEMT EMT candidates may not progress to the OSCE examination until they have successfully completed the MCQ portion of the exam.

EMT candidates who are unsuccessful at the repeat attempt must repeat the entire training programme in order to be eligible to apply for subsequent exam sittings.

Paramedic candidates who are unsuccessful at their repeat attempt must complete that section of the training course in order to be eligible to apply for subsequent exam sittings.

### Viewing and Recheck of examination scripts

#### Viewing and Rechecks at EMT and Paramedic level

Unsuccessful candidates, following the NQEMT examination, will be facilitated to view their examination scripts for educational purposes. In addition students who wish to challenge their results can request a viewing and a recheck of their examination scripts. The following rules apply:

1. Students are required to read the NQEMT Examination Handbook before initiating a viewing and recheck of their examination scripts.
2. Viewings and rechecks apply to multiple choice question (MCQ) and short written answer (SWA) exams only.
3. The viewing and recheck procedure exists to ensure that the answer matrix was fully and properly applied to examination script (MCQ or SWA). In the interests of treating all students equitably, PHECC is committed to applying the answer matrices consistently and fairly for all students.
4. The viewing and recheck procedure for an MCQ exam will be organised by the exam coordinator.
5. The viewing and recheck procedure for a SWA exam will be organised by the exam coordinator and the recheck of the exam script will be carried out by a PHECC examiner who will independently review and remark the script.
6. It is possible for a student to be 1 or 2 marks off the required pass mark. However, it is possible that marks could be deducted (as well as added) as a result of a viewing and recheck procedure as the same answer matrix is applied. This is explained in further detail below.
  - a) Deducting marks. This may arise when there is either an error in the calculation of results or incorrect inclusion of marks e.g. more marks allocated than permitted on the answer matrix.
  - b) Addition of marks. This may arise when there is an error in the calculation of results or when there has been an incorrect exclusion of marks e.g. when a student answered correctly in accordance with the answer matrix.

7. The results of a recheck will be final.
8. The Director will approve results of a recheck.
9. The exam coordinator will inform the student by email of the final results after the recheck.
10. The Director will award the NQEMT if the candidate is now successful

#### *Terms & Conditions of Script Viewing session*

1. The notification of examination results letter/email for unsuccessful candidates will contain details and instructions in relation to arranging a viewing appointment.
2. Candidates have 10 days from receipt of the examination results in which to make contact with the PHECC office to arrange a viewing appointment.
3. A viewing appointment will not be granted until the appropriate fee has been received by the PHECC office in advance of the viewing. This fee is non-refundable. (See [current schedule of fees](#)).
4. Viewing sessions are carried out in the PHECC office located in Naas, Co. Kildare.
5. It is the candidates own responsibility to present themselves at the appointed time for the viewing session.
6. Candidates may be accompanied by one other person.
7. Candidates must bring their results letter and personal identification.
8. Candidates must be present to access scripts viewed under supervision.
9. On arrival the candidate and any person accompanying him/her must sign the attendance sheet.
10. All candidates must certify in writing that they are aware and understand the rules and penalties.

#### **Examination Appeals**

**PHECC has set out below the circumstances where it will consider NQEMT Exam appeals.**

1. Only appeals of one of the following will be considered by the Appeals Panel:
  - a) That PHECC's examination procedures, available in the NQEMT Examination Handbook, were not properly employed in the conduct of the examinations and that this procedural irregularity disadvantaged the appellant. For example, equipment failure in an OSCE or PC malfunctions not immediately rectified, e.g. by provision of a paper MCQ exam.
  - b) Extenuating circumstances, referring to a serious or unforeseen event in which the appellant suffered an illness or some personal or family trauma at the time of examination. The appellant must provide original medical certificates or other supporting information to support their case that extenuating circumstances apply. The illness or trauma must be shown to have affected them in the examination or in the period immediately leading up to it.
2. A successful appeal will not lead to an examination result being altered. When an appeal is upheld, the usual outcome is to allow an opportunity to retake that part of the examination that was in dispute without payment for further examination fees.
3. If a student has cause to appeal a matter in relation to the Institution's conduct of an NQEMT they should follow the Institution's appeals and complaint procedures.

4. The following circumstances will not be considered grounds for appeal and any such applications will be returned:
- a) Perceived past shortcomings in tuition, supervision or support from the Recognised Institution. The Institution's complaints procedures must be followed to address these issues as they arise.
  - b) The structure, content or presentation of MCQ or SWA questions. Perceived shortcomings in individual MCQ or SWA questions cannot be considered as grounds for appeal.
  - c) The actual mark awarded for an examination. Being close to the pass mark is not grounds for appeal. If a student wishes to have clarification about results for a part of an examination, except the OSCE, an examination viewing and recheck can be considered.

### Repeats/ Unsuccessful Candidates

Candidates will be permitted to repeat any part of the NQEMT examination once only.

Unsuccessful candidates may apply to sit a repeat examination exam by meeting the relevant entry requirements and submitting another complete exam application form to PHECC. (refer Section 3)

The successful sections of the first exam, either theory or practical, will remain valid until the next repeat examination attempt. The credits for successful portions of the exam may be carried forward from the first attempt to the repeat attempt.

If a candidate's repeat attempt at the exam is unsuccessful **no further repeats** will be permitted. Unsuccessful candidates will be required to undergo the complete training course at a [recognised training institution](#) prior to re-applying to sit the NQEMT examination.

### Joining the PHECC register

Holders of the NQEMT are eligible to apply to PHECC for entry onto the PHECC Register at their appropriate level. This is the national professional register of practitioners who are licensed to practice at their appropriate level.

Membership of the PHECC Register is evidence that the practitioner has achieved the academic standard required, complies with a professional code of conduct and ethics and is subject to fitness to practice provisions in the interest of protecting the public and the profession. Practitioners also undertake to maintain and develop their competency through Continuing Professional Competency (CPC).

Full details of the [registration application process](#).

## Section 5 Examination Structure & Content

### Overview

The number and range of NQEMT examination components is level-dependent (i.e. EMT, paramedic or advanced paramedic). In general, however, candidates are assessed through a theoretical element and a practical element.

The theoretical element – multiple choice questions (MCQ) – assesses knowledge, while the practical element – Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) – assesses skills competency, all of which are based on the PHECC Education and Training Standards and on current Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs).

### NQEMT EMT Examination

The **EMT** exam consists of:

- 100 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)
- 8 Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) stations:  
4 Primary and 4 Secondary

#### Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)

The MCQ examination is a computer based theory test and consists of 100 MCQs designed to assess the candidates' knowledge of specific objectives as detailed in PHECC's Education and Training Standards.

The MCQ exam is 80 minutes and consists of 100 topics or stems, each of which is followed by four possible answers. The candidate will select the correct answer to the question. The questions are randomly selected by computer software at the beginning of each exam and according to the exam weighting for the level of the exam being undertaken. Each exam is individual to each candidate.

All questions carry one mark each with 80 being the pass mark.

To help candidates prepare for the MCQ, there is an online practice/demonstration [MCQ exam](#). This practice exam is not a knowledge test but a demonstration for students on how to use the software as well as being an exercise in familiarisation with the exam process. The practice exam is continually available online so students can access it at their convenience. It is not compulsory to undertake the demo exam but students are strongly encouraged to make use of the facility.

#### Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The OSCE is a clinical skill performance and competency based assessment. The candidates are observed and evaluated as they progress through a series of controlled scenarios.

The OSCE circuit consists of a combination of skill stations with each assessment being conducted for eight minutes. Candidates progress, under direction, between each station until all are completed. On occasion there may be a number of OSCE circuits for an exam.

A skill station may consist of three possible approaches:

1. **One complete skill** capable of being completed within the 8 minute time frame, i.e. application of a traction splint.
2. **A number of short skills** capable of being completed within the 8 minute time frame. i.e. selection and application of a number of different O<sub>2</sub> masks.
3. **An element of a skill**, where the complete skill would normally take longer than the 8 minute time frame, i.e. application of an extrication device taken from a specific point in the process.

The OSCE at EMT level is divided into **four primary** and **four secondary** skills stations. The skills assessed in the primary stations are more critical in terms of patient outcome than those assessed in secondary stations. Assessment sheets are available on the [PHECC website](#) to guide candidates through the assessment process. Assessment sheets will not be changed within 60 days of an exam.

EMT candidates are required to complete and pass all skill stations in order to be deemed successful. Candidates who are unsuccessful at one skill station will be offered a re-sit of that station on the same day only.

Candidates who are unsuccessful at the same day re-sit must repeat that section of the training course in order to apply for a subsequent exam sitting.

Candidates who are unsuccessful in more than one primary skill station will be deemed unsuccessful in the OSCE assessment and will not be offered a re-sit on the same day. Such candidates will be offered the opportunity to repeat the OSCE at a repeat NQEMT EMT OSCE only if they have an exam attempt remaining.

### **NQEMT Paramedic Examination**

The Paramedic examination consists of:

- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- 100 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)
- Short Written Answer questions examination

### **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**

The OSCE component of the NQEMT examination at Paramedic level is carried out by the recognised training institution.

### **Multiple Choice Question (MCQ)**

The MCQ examination is a computer-based theory test and consists of 100 multiple choice questions designed to assess the candidates' knowledge of specific objectives as detailed in [PHECCs Education and Training Standards](#). The MCQ lasts 75 minutes and consists of 100 topics or stems, each of which is followed by four possible answers. The candidate will select the correct answer for the question. The questions are randomly selected by computer software at the beginning of each exam and according to the exam weightings for the level of the exam being undertaken.

All questions carry one mark each. The pass mark is 80.

**Short Written Answer (SWA)** The SWA question examination consists of three parts, A, B and C with three questions presented in each part. Candidates answer six questions in total attempting two questions from each part.

**Part A** – attempt 2 from 3 questions

**Part B** – attempt 2 from 3 questions

**Part C** – attempt 2 from 3 questions

The answers to two questions only will be corrected from each part, extra questions will not be corrected.

The time period of the exam is two hours; all questions carry 20 marks each. The pass mark is 70.

### **Advanced Paramedic Examination**

The NQEMT examination at advanced paramedic level was devolved to NASC/USCD in 2012. Details are outlined in the NASC/UCD advanced paramedic assessment schedule.

<b>Framework for the Emergency Medical Technician Standard</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome (L)</b>	<b>Educational Domain(D)</b>	<b>Module(s)</b>
Provide the appropriate standard of patient care for Interfacility transfers and pre-hospital emergency care services (L1)	Recognition and assessment of common life-threatening and common serious medical and trauma conditions (L1D1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Primary survey</li> <li>2. Secondary Survey</li> </ol>
	Selection of an appropriate patient management plan, application of appropriate interventions, and the correct monitoring of the patient according to PHECC clinical practice guidelines and scope of practice (L1D2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Airway and ventilation</li> <li>2. Respiratory emergencies</li> <li>3. Cardiac first response<sup>1</sup></li> <li>4. Cardiovascular emergencies</li> <li>5. General medical emergencies</li> <li>6. Bleeding, shock and soft tissue injuries</li> <li>7. Musculoskeletal, head and spinal injuries</li> <li>8. Childbirth and neonatal resuscitation</li> <li>9. Paediatrics</li> </ol>
	Appropriate on-going maintenance of the patient record and utilisation of best communication practices including patient handover procedures (L1D3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legislation and Information management</li> <li>2. Communications</li> </ol>
Safely and appropriately access, retrieve and transport patients (L2)		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Basic patient care</li> <li>2. Gaining access to the patient at scene</li> <li>3. Ambulance operations</li> </ol>
Adopt a professional approach to their practice (L3)	Retaining a professional manner and method in the performance of their duties as a registered EMT (L3D1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professional practice and medico-legal issues concerning the EMT</li> <li>2. Patient safety and Quality assurance</li> </ol>
	Basing their professional practice on a solid foundation of both basic and clinical sciences (L3D2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clinical anatomy and physiology</li> <li>2. Pharmacology</li> <li>3. Infection prevention and control</li> <li>4. Intramuscular injection</li> </ol>
	Utilising best practice as prescribed by standard pre-hospital emergency care operational procedures (L3D3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Radio communications</li> <li>2. Hazardous material incident</li> <li>3. Major Emergency</li> <li>4. Civil disorder</li> </ol>
Demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional competence (L4)	Maintaining personal well-being and professional relationships with colleagues (L4D1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The well-being of the EMT</li> </ol>
	Identify with the role of the EMT (L4D2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuum of pre-hospital emergency care</li> <li>2. Continuous professional competence</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> The CFR Advanced level is either a pre-requisite or co-requisite.



<b>Framework for the Paramedic Standard</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome (L)</b>	<b>Educational Domain (D)</b>	<b>Module(s)</b>
Provide the appropriate standard of patient care for Interfacility transfers and pre-hospital emergency care services (L1)	Recognition and assessment of both common life-threatening and common serious medical conditions (L1D1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Primary Survey</li> <li>2. Secondary Survey</li> </ol>
	Selection of an appropriate patient management plan, application of appropriate interventions as required, and the correct monitoring of the patient (L1D2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Airway and ventilation</li> <li>4. Respiratory emergencies</li> <li>5. Cardiac First Response<sup>2</sup></li> <li>6. Cardiovascular emergencies</li> <li>7. Diabetic emergencies</li> <li>8. Allergies and anaphylaxis</li> <li>9. Poisoning and overdose</li> <li>10. Environmental emergencies</li> <li>11. Mental health and behavioural emergencies</li> <li>12. Altered level of consciousness and seizures</li> <li>13. Bleeding and shock</li> <li>14. Soft tissue injuries</li> <li>15. Musculoskeletal injuries</li> <li>16. Head and spinal injuries</li> <li>17. Pregnancy and pre-delivery emergencies</li> <li>18. Childbirth and neonatal resuscitation</li> <li>19. Paediatrics</li> </ol>
	Appropriate on-going maintenance of the patient record and utilisation of correct patient handover procedures (L1D3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health information management</li> <li>2. Communications</li> </ol>
<b>Learning Outcome (L)</b>	<b>Educational Domain (D)</b>	<b>Module(s)</b>
Safely and appropriately access, retrieve and transport patients (L2)		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Basic patient care</li> <li>2. Scene assessment</li> <li>3. Gaining access to the patient at scene</li> <li>4. Ambulance operations</li> </ol>
Adopt a professional approach to their practice (L3)	Retaining a professional manner and method in the performance of their duties (L2D1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professional practice &amp; medico-legal issues concerning the paramedic</li> <li>2. Patient safety and Quality assurance</li> </ol>
	Basing their professional practice on a solid foundation of both basic and clinical sciences (L2D2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clinical anatomy and physiology</li> <li>2. Pharmacology</li> <li>3. Infection prevention and control</li> <li>4. Intravenous/intraosseous therapy</li> <li>5. Intramuscular injection</li> </ol>

Cont.....

<sup>2</sup> The CFR Advanced level course is either a pre-requisite or co-requisite.

Framework for the Paramedic Standard		
	Utilising best practice as prescribed by pre-hospital standard operational procedures and CPGs (L2D3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Radio communications</li> <li>2. Hazardous Material Incident</li> <li>3. Major Emergency</li> <li>4. Civil disorder</li> <li>5. Treat and refer</li> </ol>
Demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional competence (L4)	Maintaining personal well-being and professional relationships with colleagues (L4D1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The well-being of the paramedic</li> </ol>
	Identify with the role of the paramedic (L4D2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuum of pre-hospital emergency care</li> <li>2. Manage personal work priorities and professional development</li> <li>3. Interpersonal and team management skills</li> <li>4. Mentorship</li> </ol>

Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council  
Abbey Moat House  
Abbey Street  
Naas  
Co Kildare  
Ireland

T: + 353 (0)45 882042  
F: + 353 (0)45 882089  
E: [info@phecc.ie](mailto:info@phecc.ie)  
W: [www.phecc.ie](http://www.phecc.ie)