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| <b>Owner:</b> PD  | <b>Approved by:</b> P. Dempsey | <b>Approval Date:</b> June 2014 |

## Introduction

This bulletin seeks to clarify the minimum duration and essential requirements of educational programmes required by PHECC for recognised National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology (NQEMT) courses leading to registration. This bulletin must be read in conjunction with the current Education and Training Standards for EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic available via this [weblink](#).

The periods below are calculated as 30 hours average per week for the theoretical instruction and 39 hours a week average for clinical practice placements/internships.

This information may be used by recognised institutions and students and also applicants seeking recognition of their pre-hospital emergency care qualification obtained outside the State.

| <b>NQEMT - EMT</b>                                | <b>Minimum duration and essential requirements</b>   |
|---|--|
| Theoretical instruction                           | 4 weeks  |
| Clinical instruction                              | 1 week supernumerary clinical placement at approved healthcare sites to include ambulance services |
| Total duration – a period of no less than 5 weeks |  |

| <b>NQEMT – Paramedic</b>  | <b>Minimum duration and essential requirements</b>  |
|---|---|
| Theoretical instruction<br>Total 10 weeks or 1 semester   | 10 weeks  |
| Clinical instruction<br>Total 18 weeks or 1.5 semester  | 2 weeks supernumerary clinical placement in approved in-hospital sites<br>4 weeks clinical placement in an approved emergency ambulance service |
|   | 12 weeks rostered clinical placement in an approved ambulance service (emergency and non-emergency) and other approved healthcare sites         |
| Internship<br>Total 1 year (inclusive of leave)   | 52 weeks rostered clinical placement in an approved ambulance service (emergency and non-emergency) and other approved healthcare sites         |
| <p>Total duration:<br/>Undertaken as a vocational course the PHECC recognised NQEMT paramedic course will take no less than 8 months (or 28 weeks net of leave) <u>and</u> 1 year full time clinical practice/internship (52 weeks inclusive of leave).</p> <p>In terms of higher education institute semesters - 2.5 semesters <u>and</u> one year full time clinical practice/internship is the period of education required.</p> |   |

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***It is important to point out that in Ireland there is no direct entry to the Advanced Paramedic course for students. The NQEMT Paramedic plus 2 years clinical practice are the pre-requisite entry criteria.***

| <b>NQEMT - Advanced Paramedic (AP) Standard</b>   | <b>Minimum duration and essential requirements</b>   |
|---|--|
| Theoretical instruction<br>Total 23 weeks or 2 semesters  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 weeks combined workshop and self-directed learning (196 hour work shop/ contact hours &amp; 424 hours self-directed learning)</li> <li>• 8 weeks taught instruction</li> </ul>   |
| Clinical instruction<br>Total 12 weeks or 1 semester  | 5 weeks supernumerary clinical placement in approved in-hospital sites   |
|   | 7 weeks rostered clinical placement in an approved emergency ambulance service and other approved healthcare sites divided between the supervision stages (i) - (iii): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Direct supervision</li> <li>(ii) Indirect supervision</li> <li>(iii) Remote supervision</li> </ul> |
| Internship<br>Total 1 year (inclusive of leave)   | 52 weeks rostered clinical placement in an approved ambulance service (emergency and non-emergency) and other approved healthcare sites  |
| <b>Total duration:</b><br><br>Undertaken as a vocational course the PHECC recognised AP course will take no less than 9 months (or 35 weeks nett of leave) <u>and</u> 1 year full time clinical practice/internship (52 weeks inclusive of leave).<br><br>In terms of higher education institute semesters - 3 semesters <u>and</u> one year full time clinical practice placement /internship is the period of education required. |  |

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***When PHECC is assessing the academic requirement for the Advanced Paramedic division of the Register the minimum time and essential requirements of both the NQEMT Paramedic and NQEMT Advanced Paramedic education and training standards are required. This is an important clarification for persons seeking recognition of their qualification(s) obtained outside the State.***

| <b>Combined Paramedic and AP Standards -<br/>The minimum accepted for entry to the AP division of the PHECC Register</b>   | <b>Minimum time and essential requirements</b> |
|--|--|
| Theoretical instruction  | 33 weeks or 3 semesters                        |
| Clinical instruction - supernumerary and rostered  | 30 weeks or 2.5/3 semesters                    |
| Postgrad Internship<br>Total 2 years (inclusive of leave)  | 2 years  |
| <p>Total duration:</p> <p>Undertaken as a vocational course the combined PHECC approved paramedic and Advanced Paramedic NQEMT courses will require no less than 1.5 years (or 18months) undergraduate theoretical and clinical instruction combined <u>and</u> 2 years full time clinical practice/internship (104 weeks inclusive of leave).</p> <p>In terms of higher education institute semesters - 5.5/6 semesters <u>and</u> two year full time clinical practice placements/ internship is the period of education required.</p> |  |