

Pre-Hospital  
Emergency Care  
Council



Paramedic  
NQEMT Examination  
Standard (Interim)

**Document Management Data** (To be removed prior to publication)

<b>Title: STN028 Paramedic NQEMT Examination Standard (Interim)</b>		<b>V 4</b>
<b>Owner: JE</b>	<b>Approved by: Council</b>	<b>Approval Date: 13/02/2020</b>

***Mission Statement***

*“The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council protects the public by independently specifying, reviewing, maintaining and monitoring standards of excellence for the safe provision of quality pre-hospital emergency care”*

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Published by:

***Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council***  
***Feb 2020***

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**Version History**

(Please visit the [PHECC website](#) to confirm current version.)

<b>Name: STN028 Paramedic NQEMT Examination Standard (Interim)</b>		
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
1	Oct 2017	New Standard approved by Council
2	Jan 2018	Revision of OSCE section to include two examiners and removal of critical fail.
3	May 2018	Removal of requirement to have successfully completed the MCQ component before a candidate takes the OSCE
4	Feb 2020	Inclusion of critical element in OSCE assessment

## Paramedic NQEMT Examination Standard (Interim)

### Background

A PHECC Recognised Institution (RI) is an education and training institution that has been approved to deliver courses which have been approved by PHECC under Article 4 (a), (d) of the PHECC Establishment Order 109 of 2000.

The functions of the Council shall be to-

- (a) recognise, in accordance with the rules made by the Council, institutions for the education and training of emergency medical technicians;*
- (d) recognise the equivalence of professional qualifications in pre-hospital emergency care obtained outside the State;*

PHECC recognition as a training institution is a mandatory step before one or all PHECC recognised courses can be delivered. PHECC RIs commit to delivering pre-hospital emergency care courses in accordance with PHECC's Education and Training Standards and the current edition of the PHECC Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs)

PHECC conduct examinations under PHECC's functions, as outlined in the PHECC Establishment Order (SI 109/2000) (b) – (c)

- (b) conduct examinations leading to the award of the N.Q.E.M.T. at such levels of competence as may, with the consent of the Minister, be determined by the Council*
- (c) award the N.Q.E.M.T. to such persons as have completed a recognised course under sub- article 9h)(i) in a recognised institution and have passed the relevant examination conducted by the Council pursuant to the sub-article (b) of the Article*

### Examination eligibility criteria:

To be eligible to sit the NQEMT examination you must:

Complete the relevant PHECC recognised course in a PHECC recognised training institution 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 in or outside the state.

### Examination components:

The NQEMT examination components for Paramedic level are assessed through theoretical and practical skills examination:

- 1) Multiple Choice Question (MCQ)
- 2) Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Summative Assessment
- 3) Short Written Answer (SWA)

### Examination component detail:

#### Component 1)

##### MCQ

Paramedic exam candidates undertake a computer based theory test consisting of one hundred (100) multiple choice questions followed by four possible answers. The candidate will select the correct answer to the question. The questions are randomly selected and delivered according to the weighting allocated. Each exam is individual to each candidate and exam content is based on the current PHECC paramedic education and training standard and current PHECC clinical practice guidelines (CPGs).

Duration for completion of MCQ exam is 75 minutes.  
All questions carry one mark.  
100 questions to be completed.

A candidate will be deemed successful when they achieve a score of 80% in the MCQ component of the examination.

If a candidate receives a score of 79% or less he/she is deemed to be unsuccessful in the MCQ component of the examination.

Unsuccessful candidates will be offered one repeat only of the MCQ examination.

Unsuccessful candidates can progress to take the OSCE component of the NQEMT examination.

### **Component 2)**

#### **Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) summative assessment component**

A candidate who completes the MCQ examination will go forward to take OSCE summative assessment. The OSCE summative assessment is a clinical skills performance and competency based assessment where two candidates, operating as a team of clinical lead candidate and assisting candidate, will undertake OSCE summative skills assessment whereby each lead candidate will be examined in two stations. The skill stations will consist one Trauma and one Medical scenario. Each scenario will be capable of completion in 12 minutes.

Two PHECC examiners will attend each station. One examiner will assess the candidate and one examiner will lead on the scenario.

A candidate will be deemed successful in the OSCE summative assessment when they achieve a score of 70% in each station.

A candidate will be deemed unsuccessful in the OSCE summative assessment when they achieve a score of 69% or less in more than one station.

A candidate who receives a critical fail will be deemed unsuccessful in that station.

A candidate who fails one station will be offered a **resit** of that station on the same day.

**Unsuccessful candidates will be offered one repeat only of the OSCE summative assessment examination.**

### **Component 3)**

#### **Short Written Answer (SWA)**

The SWA examination consists of three parts: A, B, and C. there are 3 questions in each part. Candidates answer a total of six (6) questions, attempting two (2) 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 first two answers presented, in each part, will be corrected. Additional answers will not be corrected and therefore are not marked.

All questions carry twenty (20) marks.  
Duration for completion is two (2) hours

A candidate will be deemed successful when they achieve a score of 70% in the SWA component of the NQEMT examination.

If a candidate receives a score of 69% or less he/she is deemed to be unsuccessful in the SWA component of the NQEMT examination.

Unsuccessful candidates will be offered one repeat of the SWA examination component.

Assessment sheets are available on the [PHECC website](#) to guide candidates through preparation for the assessment process.



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