



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Medical Services

Ohio Emergency Medical Services • Richard N. Rucker, Executive Director
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Ohio State EMS Board Adopts National Accreditation of Paramedic Training Programs

COLUMBUS - The Ohio State Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has adopted the national accreditation of the state's paramedic training programs.

The adoption, approved in a 12-5 vote by the board during its regular meeting Thursday, will require that all Ohio accredited paramedic training programs be nationally accredited through the Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) by 2018. The examination recognized by the EMS Board for Ohio certification will be administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

"The board gathered and reviewed all information from stakeholders as well as other resources before ultimately making its decision upon measures that will best serve Ohio's EMS agencies, EMS professionals, EMS education institutions, residents, and visitors," said Richard Rucker, executive director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services. "National accreditation allows mobility; professional recognition; and comparability which moves us one step closer to emergency preparedness."

EMS is the only licensed health care profession that did not require graduation from a nationally accredited school. CoAEMSP have proposed a model that is a systematic approach to EMS education and licensure which is built on the concept of a national EMS education standard and national education program accreditation.

Currently, forty-five of the fifty states have agreed to adopt the National Accreditation.

The Ohio State Board of EMS began the study of the *Education Agenda* and the national accreditation issue in 2007, which led to the approval of a revised accreditation process for EMS training and the adoption of the National EMS Scope of Practice Model as a minimum guideline.

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The Ohio Department of Public Safety, through the Division of EMS, oversees the certification of emergency medical technicians and firefighters and ensures that the professionals in these lifesaving roles are properly trained, educated and prepared for emergency situations.