



# Policy Statement

## 2022 Extensions of EMS Provider Certification Under EO #4

### I. PURPOSE

On September 27, 2021, Governor Hochul issued an executive order declaring a statewide disaster emergency due to healthcare staffing shortages in New York State. Since then, New York has experienced COVID-19 transmission rates and hospitalizations not seen since 2020.

During the past several months, the COVID 19 pandemic has greatly impacted EMS providers and EMS education. Due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, EMS agencies have experienced increased staff shortages due to illness and exposure while simultaneously facing an increase in call volume. In many cases, EMS agencies have been forced to deploy all available EMS providers into direct patient care roles and cancel all non-essential functions, including EMS education and training, to handle the staffing shortfall and meet operational demands.

Due to the disruption in EMS education and increased workload of staff, the Bureau of EMS is extending certifications as noted below.

### II. EXTENSION OF CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Executive Order Number 4, issued on September 27, 2021, the following will now apply:

#### A. Persons Currently Certified as EMS Providers

On February 1, 2022, EMS provider certifications were extended for one (1) year from the expiration date listed on the provider certification card. The extension was automatically applied to all EMS providers who hold a current New York State EMS provider certification on February 1, 2022.

#### B. Persons Previously Certified as EMS Providers

On February 1, 2022, EMS providers whose certification had expired between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022 were automatically recertified, at their previous level of certification. An additional one (1) year has been added to their original expiration date.

*Example: EMS certification expired on October 31, 2021 was extended for one year and will now expire on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.*

### III. CERTIFICATION VERIFICATION

EMS providers who were extended in accordance with this section have not been issued a paper copy of their provider certification card containing the updated expiration date. EMS provider

certification status, including updated expiration dates, can be verified in the Department's online Health Commerce System (HCS) utilizing the EMT Certification Search tool.

- A. The HCS online portal can be accessed by Course Sponsors, EMS Agencies, and Regional Program Agencies, utilizing their verified account credentials, to verify the current stats, level of certification, and expiration date of EMS providers.
- B. Course sponsors shall verify the certification of all EMS providers enrolling in an advanced certification course. In addition to the copy of the student certification card, course instructors shall include a printout of the verification search results in the student course file.
- C. EMS agencies must include a printout of the EMT Certification search results in their EMS agency personnel file.