



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA SYSTEM  
PO Box 47853 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7853

**WASHINGTON STATE PARAMEDIC RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
(RETAIN FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)

Paramedics may complete recertification educational requirements by completing either the Continuing Medical Education (*CME*) *method* or through a Department of Health (DOH) and County Medical Program Director (MPD) approved *Ongoing Training and Evaluation Program* (OTEP) *method*, which includes approved knowledge and skill evaluations.

**Educational Requirements:**

- 1. In each certification period, complete and document training in the following *required* topics:**
  - a. Infectious disease prevention (annual OSHA/WSHA –approved, agency-required, infectious disease training meets this requirement)
  - b. Trauma
  - c. Other pediatric topics
  - d. Other CME for a total of 150 hours. Individuals obtaining education through the CME method must complete the number of educational course hours indicated. Due to the competency-based nature of OTEP, fewer class hours may be needed to complete this requirement than when using the OTEP method.

**Skills Maintenance Requirements:**

**1. First Certification Period:**

- a. IV Starts: \*
  - i. First Year of certification (may not be averaged)
    - a. CME method - 36 successful IV starts.
    - b. OTEP method – 12 successful IV starts
  - ii. Second and third years of certification (may be averaged over the two years)
    - a. CME method – each year, 36 successful IV starts
    - b. OTEP method – each year, 12 successful IV starts
- b. Demonstrate intraosseous infusion proficiency annually
- c. Endotracheal Intubations: \*\*
  - i. First Year of certification (4 must be performed on humans and may not be averaged)
    - a. CME method - 12 successful endotracheal intubations
    - b. OTEP method – 4 successful endotracheal intubations
  - ii. Second and third years of certification (4 each year must be performed on humans and maybe averaged over the two years)
    - a. CME method – each year, 12 successful endotracheal intubations
    - b. OTEP method – each year, 4 successful endotracheal intubations
- d. Demonstrate pediatric airway proficiency

## 2. Later Certification Periods:

- a. IV starts – demonstrate proficiency annually
- b. Demonstrated intraosseous infusion proficiency annually
- c. Endotracheal Intubations (2 each year must be performed on humans and may be averaged over the 3 years)
  - i. CME method – each year, 4 successful intubations
  - ii. OTEP method – each year, 2 successful intubations
- d. Demonstrate pediatric airway proficiency

### Examination and Certification Recommendation Requirements:

#### 1. CME Method

- a. Successfully complete practical skills evaluations required by the MPD to determine ongoing competence
- b. Pass the state *written* examination within six months of recertification. Three attempts are allowed.
- c. Obtain written recommendation for recertification from the county MPD and submit the completed and signed application to the DOH.

#### 2. OTEP Method

- a. Successful completion of the OTEP method fulfills the requirement of the DOH written and practical skills examinations.
- b. Obtain written recommendation for recertification from the county MPD and submit the completed and signed application to the DOH.

### Description of selected terms used:

- CPR includes foreign body airway obstruction and the use of airway adjuncts appropriate to the level of certification for adults, children and infants.
- Endotracheal intubation: Proficiency includes the verification of proper tube placement and continued placement of the endotracheal tube in the trachea through procedures identified in county MPD protocols.
- Intraosseous infusion: Proficiency in intraosseous line placement in pediatric patients.
- "IV starts": Proficiency in intravenous catheterization performed on sick, injured, or preoperative adult and pediatric patients. With written authorization of the MPD, IV starts may be performed on artificial training aids.
- Other pediatric topics: This includes anatomy and physiology and medical problems including special needs patients.
- Pharmacology: Pharmacology appropriate to the level of certification and specific to the medications approved by your MPD.
- Proficiency: Ability to perform a skill properly, demonstrated to the satisfaction of the MPD or delegate.
- Pediatric airway: Proficiency in pediatric airway management.

**(Please keep all recertification documents for four years after each certification)**

\*If you have completed a certification period as an IV, IV/Airway, ILS or ILS/Airway technician, you do not need to meet this requirement during your first certification period; however the requirements for later certification periods must be met.

\*\* If you have completed a certification period as an Airway, IV/Airway, ILS/Airway technician, you do not need to meet this requirement during your first certification period; however the requirements for later certification periods must be met.