

# Emergency Medical Services

## Wisconsin Curriculum

### Advanced Emergency Medical Technician-Clinical

## Background

Wisconsin last revised its emergency medical services (EMS) curricula for all levels between 2011 and 2013. The revision followed the release of the first version of the National EMS Education Standards in 2009. When first released, the curricula aligned with both the 2009 National EMS Education Standards and the Wisconsin EMS Scope of practice for all levels. EMS, however, is continually evolving. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, upon recommendation from the Physicians Advisory Committee, has revised the Wisconsin EMS Scope of Practice for all levels multiple times over the last decade. In 2021, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration published a new revision of the National EMS Education Standards. While the new National EMS Education Standards share much of the same content as the previous version, they also incorporate multiple developments in EMS from the past decade. These changes, while advancing EMS to keep pace with evolutions in medicine and changes in technology, were not incorporated into the previous Wisconsin curricula. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Technical College System therefore launched a new curriculum revision project in 2020 both in preparation for the forthcoming new National EMS Education Standards and to better align curriculum with Wisconsin EMS Scope of Practice.

This revised curriculum was developed in partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Technical College System. Through this partnership, EMS educators from across the state participated in the development of the new curriculum. This curriculum is part of a larger project to update the curriculum at the emergency medical responder (EMR), emergency medical technician (EMT), and advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT) levels. These three levels collectively represent the foundation of the EMS system with the state. The new curricula for these levels were therefore redesigned and released in unison.

The changes contained within this curriculum are necessary to align Wisconsin curriculum with the current National EMS Education Standards and current Wisconsin Scope of Practice. While the new curriculum does not include every possible skill in the current scope of practice, it does contain most of the medications, invasive procedures, and other higher risk skills added for the AEMT level since the last curriculum revision. The decision to include or not include advanced skills involved a delicate balance between the need to ensure new students are adequately trained in new skills and medications and a recognition that adding additional content impacts students and service providers. The curriculum attempts to ensure a common statewide standard in what advanced skills are included, recognizing that students may go on to serve anywhere in the state and therefore should receive training in the skills needed by virtue of the scope of practice. These decisions were not taken lightly. These changes, however, will ensure that Wisconsin training centers continue to provide high quality EMS services education to our next generation of EMRs and EMS practitioners.

The format of the new AEMT curriculum differs significantly from the previous curriculum. While the new curriculum still outlines the necessary content to include in an AEMT course, it does not go into

the depth and breadth breakdown of that material to the same degree as the previous curriculum. The previous curriculum specifically listed depth and breadth within the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains with a code of letters and numbers. Within the new curriculum, depth and breadth within the domains for a particular subject area are instead indicated using specific verbs. For example, use of “analyze” for a particular topic indicates a greater depth and breadth within the cognitive domain than the use of “identify.” In addition, the new curriculum is not as prescriptive in setting standards for implementation of the curriculum. Details of classroom activities, lesson planning, and other similar functions have been omitted where possible from the state curriculum. They are instead left for individual training centers and instructors to develop. The new curricula for EMR, EMT, and AEMT were also designed to share a common format and appearance unlike the previous versions that differed in formatting as they were developed at different times. These changes have resulted in a substantially shorter and more focused curriculum than the previous version.

## **Description**

This curriculum expands the role and skills of the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Skills will include obtaining intravenous and intraosseous access, intranasal, intramuscular and subcutaneous medication administration, and fluid therapy. Extensive patient assessment knowledge and skills and treatment decision making skills are integrated throughout the curriculum. Successful completion prepares the learner for the National Registry AEMT written examination.

## **Prerequisite**

A current Wisconsin EMT license is required, AEMT course completion.

## **External Standards**

AEMT NEMS Scope of Practice 2019  
NEMS AEMT Education Standards 2021  
WI AEMT Scope of Practice 2023

## **Course Competencies**

### **1. Perform AEMT operations**

#### **Assessment Strategies**

- 1.1. Clinical evaluation

#### **Criteria**

- 1.1. Use personal protective equipment
- 1.2. Apply safety standards within the AEMT scope of practice
- 1.3. Use EMS equipment applicable to the AEMT scope of practice
- 1.4. Apply AEMT communication principles
- 1.5. Apply AEMT standard documentation practice

## 2. Assess patient(s)

### Assessment Strategies

- 2.1. Clinical evaluation

### Criteria

- 2.1 Integrate pathophysiological principles into patient assessment(s)
- 2.2 Formulate field impressions
- 2.3 Formulate a working diagnosis
- 2.4 Differentiate between acute and non-acute findings
- 2.5 Identify nature of illness
- 2.6 Identify mechanism of injury
- 2.7 Interpret diagnostic results
- 2.8. Apply therapeutic communication techniques

## 3. Treat patient(s)

### Assessment Strategies

- 3.1. Clinical evaluation

### Criteria

- 3.1. Apply treatment modalities within the AEMT scope of practice
- 3.2. Apply pharmacological interventions within the AEMT scope of practice
- 3.3. Formulate patient treatment plan
- 3.4. Implement patient treatment plan
- 3.5. Re-evaluate treatment plan
- 3.6. Revise treatment as necessary