

ALS Redesign Expert Panel Meeting
June 27, 2022, 2 p.m. EDT



This Month's Topic: Examination Scenarios and Demonstration

As a part of the ALS Redesign Initiative, the National Registry is creating the performance component of ALS examinations by adding scenarios and scenario-based items/questions. Examinations Content Manager, Dr. Paul Rosenberger, demonstrated to the Panel a sample scenario example, with items that a candidate could encounter when taking AEMT or Paramedic examinations in the future.

The scenarios will provide an authentic testing experience to determine a candidate's competency, knowledge, and skills. This will improve the examination by measuring the clinical reasoning and decision-making with support from the Clinical Judgment framework and supporting research published in [Prehospital Emergency Care](#) – a foundation for understanding a candidate's process in providing emergency prehospital care.

The scenario illustrates a situation for the candidate to navigate and apply clinical reasoning and decision-making. With technology, they can navigate the scenario in a way that emulates the field and reality of the En Route, Scene, and Post Scene phases.

The scenario items will be piloted on our AEMT examination beginning as early as September 2022. The items have been developed (with referencing and written rationales), reviewed, refined, and improved with the correspondence of AEMT and Paramedic expert advisory panels. Piloting the items is critical to ensuring that the National Registry's examinations are valid and precise.

It's important to note that the new scenarios will not solely make up the examination; they are supplemental to existing cognitive examination content and will not significantly impact time to test.

Current State of Scenarios

The Examinations, Science and Psychometrics team are committed to developing examination content that provides contextual experience for the candidate while ensuring competency for practice. Since 2020, our teams have developed the researched and published Clinical Judgment Model used to better inform examination scenario items.

Our diverse Item Writing Panel embraces collaboration, consensus, and consists of highly regarded EMS subject matter experts. They ensure that the scenarios follow a uniform examination item development process that all National Registry examination items undergo.

The Item Writing Panel uses data science, known best practices, subject expertise, and specialized skills, to ensure that examination items meet performance criteria, passing standards, and avoid bias.

As stated above, the scenario items will be piloted September 2022.

Mark your calendar! You are invited to attend our ALS Redesign Summit on July 20, 2022 where we will dive deeper into the development and science behind these items and prepare our EMS textbook vendors and other stakeholders for this content shift, [here](#).

More Information about Examination Items

The National Registry takes pride in the work and effort dedicated to developing examination items. As we evolve with the best practices, all newly developed questions have one correct answer. Previous examination items have been reviewed and updated to prevent candidates from feeling as if they must choose the “most correct.” All examination results are reviewed by the National Registry’s Director of Psychometrics and Analytics, Dr. Mihaiela Gugiu, to ensure accuracy and fairness.

To review the materials mentioned:

- The paper, “A Proposed Theoretical Framework for Clinical Judgement in EMS” authored by Mihaiela R. Gugiu, PhD, Kim Mckenna, PhD, MEd, BSN, NRP, Thomas E. Platt, EdD, and Ashish R. Panchal, MD, PhD.:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10903127.2022.2048756>
- Clinical Judgement Model and Performance Component:
https://www.nremt.org/getmedia/ca65bf09-ac71-41ab-8465-6336142de6dd/TEI-PE-Template_v3-040722.pdf

Consensus and Recap

As the National Registry continues to move forward with the redesign of the ALS examination and phase out the psychomotor examination, we are excited to use these innovative scenario-based questions to deliver a comprehensive examination experience that allows candidates to demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to practice competently and safely in the field. With collaboration and feedback from the expert panels and the EMS community, we continue to gather more information, insight, and confidence in the development of clinical judgment examination items. These items will launch this fall on our AEMT examinations and will be piloted and reviewed before the next phase of implementation. We will be spending the next couple of months sharing news about the scenarios, posting more content and sharing this information with all our partners in the industry.