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## American Association of Medical Review Officers

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### **MRO Advisory:**

#### **Quick Guide to Being a Certified DOT Medical Examiner**

**AAMRO** receives a number of calls regarding the process of becoming a Certified Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Medical Examiner. We hope this quick reference and summary will answer some of the questions we receive and resolve some of the misunderstanding.

First, FMCSA certification of physicians to be FMCSA Medical Examiner is separate and apart from the training and certification process facilitated by AAMRO to be a federally qualified Certified MRO. Many MROs do perform medical examinations and DOT physicals as Medical Examiners and will hold dual certifications.

All medical certificates issued on or after **May 21, 2014**, must be issued by Medical Examiners that are listed on the National Registry.

The requirements and process for a physician to become a Certified FMCSA Medical Examiner is as follows:

#### **Have the Basic Medical Qualifications**

A certified Medical Examiner must be licensed, certified, or registered in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations to perform physical examinations. This definition includes, but is not limited to, doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and doctors of chiropractic. This is a significantly broader spectrum of health providers who can act as Medical Examiners than MROs. A certified MRO can only be a licensed M.D. or D.O.

#### **Get Registered and Obtain Unique Identifier Number**

The first official step is to log onto the National Registry System and receive a unique identifier. The site is:

<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/NRPublicUI/home.seam>

This number will be as important as your social security number in that it will be your identifier for training, certification, and put on all of the electronic medical records and Medical Examiner forms that you prepare.

#### **Obtain Required Initial Medical Examiner Training**

Complete the required initial Medical Examiner's training on the FMCSA regulations, physical qualification standards, guidance and related knowledge for CMV drivers.

At this time there are a large number of training providers. The focus of the training should be on clearly understanding the medical standards, the medical guidance (which is available on-line), and the new and pending FMCSA reporting requirements.

Although a concise review of the examination procedures and update on the various medical conditions is useful, some of the training providers seem to be requiring experienced practitioners to go back to medical school.

*A Sample Training* is posted on the National Registry web site. It is an example that demonstrates one way to cover the eight training topics in the core curriculum required by FMCSA.

### **Pass the Medical Examiner Certification Test**

The Medical Examiner's certification test was developed by FMCSA and is administered at various test site locations. You must take and pass the FMCSA Medical Examiner's certification test within 3 years of the taking the initial training.

### **Ongoing Medical Examiner Requirements and Obligations**

The current requirements are that the Medical Examiner must report results of driver exams every month via the national registry system (electronic records). A current proposal will require the Medical Examiner to report exam results by the end of the day the exam is completed. These records will then be sent by FMCSA to the appropriate State Licensing authority and the employer can then access the database to see if the driver is qualified or qualified with conditions.

The Medical Examiner's detailed report may be reviewed to see if there are any errors.

The Certified Medical Examiner must submit to periodic monitoring and audits, and maintain and demonstrate knowledge of the current Federal requirements through periodic training and recertification.

The Medical Examiner will also be required to promptly reply to requests for records from enforcement personnel.

Maintain certification by completing periodic training every five years and recertify by passing the Medical Examiner certification exam every 10 years.

**Web site** <http://nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

The National Registry web site has a wealth of information regarding the National Registry program and its various components. It includes the *Medical Examiner Handbook*, which provides information and guidance for Medical Examiners who perform the CMV driver medical examination.