

CDL Questions and Certified Medical Examiners

As the deadline for the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME) approaches, questions about the registry and how carriers must adjust to it have begun surfacing. Here are some of the common questions that have been asked recently.

Question: Will I have to get a new exam if I had one before May 21, 2014, with an examiner that is not on the NRCME?

Answer: No. The exams done before May 21, 2014, by examiners that are not on



the NRCME will be valid for their full term. If you took your exam on May 20, 2014, with an examiner that is not on the NRCME and were given a two-year card, your next physical would be required before May 20, 2016. That next physical would then have to be done by an examiner that is on the NRCME.

Question: Will examiners that are on the NRCME provide medical cards directly to the state for me?

Answer: No. A CDL holder will still need to present their new medical card to the state licensing agency after having passed the physical. Examin-

ers on the NRCME are only required to provide a monthly report to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on all physicals done that month. FMCSA does not share this information with anyone.

Question: What medical qualifications are changing due to the NRCME being created?

Answer: There are no changes to the medical qualification requirements. The physical exam is the same as it has been for the last several years. However, the forms are changing. There will need to



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CDL Questions . . .

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be a space for the examiner's NRCME number on all paperwork. Carriers and examiners have been allowed to use up the old forms, but by May 21, 2014, all examiners must be using the new forms.

Question: We have heard that the driver and carrier must make sure the examiner is on the NRCME. How can we do that?

Answer: The list of certified medical examiners is available at: <https://national-registry.fmcsa.dot.gov/NRPublicUI/home.seam>

Question: Is the carrier required to

have proof that they verified the exam was conducted by an examiner on the NRCME?

Answer: Yes. Carriers must be able to prove that they verified that the examiner was on the registry if the exam took place after May 21, 2014. This can be accomplished by simply placing a document, such as a form or a printout from the registry showing the examiner on the registry, in the driver's DQ file.

Question: There has been discussion of a "hardship" exception that allows a driver to use an examiner that is not on the registry if he/she would have to drive more than 100 miles from his/her home to get to an examiner who is on the NRCME. Is there any truth to this?

Answer: At this time, there is no such exception.



Benefits Corner

Reminder:

Beginning on May 21, 2014, motor carriers and drivers may only use medical examiners listed in the Medical Registry to conduct physical exams of drivers. Each employee and/or Entity Road and Bridge Department will be responsible for checking the registry to find out if the provider is on the list. However, to help ease in this transition, CHP will now cover both in and out of network CDL physicals at the current benefit of 100% up to the capped amount of \$180.00 every 2 years if required for employment. This will assist our Members in making certain they are meeting the requirement of utilizing Medical Examiners listed in the Registry. I have provided the link to the national registry that will allow for a provider search by address; <https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov>

You or your provider will still be responsible to submit the CHP CDL Claim form for proper processing of the CDL exam. The CDL Physical Claim form is located at www.ctsi.org under Pools/CHP/Click here to access some important CHP documents and forms.