#### Purpose:

Pursuant to 105 CMR 170.930(A)(4) of the EMS System regulations, an EMT whose certification is about to expire or has lapsed for 30 days or less, and who documents significant hardship, may seek a hardship waiver to renew their certification in accordance with procedures the Department sets out in an administrative requirement (AR). This AR explains the standards, documentation and review process for EMTs requesting such a hardship waiver. The Department defines hardship for such waivers as medical hardship to the EMT or to a family member of the EMT for whom the EMT is a significant caregiver. This process does not apply to EMTs deployed in the military. Extensions based on military service are addressed by 105 CMR 170.931 and AR 2-238.

1. **Massachusetts EMTs holding National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification**

EMTs who hold NREMT certification at the same level as their Massachusetts certification shall contact NREMT directly to request an extension to certification in accordance with NREMT policy. If the NREMT grants an extension, the EMT must notify the Department in writing of the extension. Upon completion of extension, and renewal of NREMT, the EMT shall obtain, complete and submit a Department-issued individual recertification application form and applicable non-refundable recertification fee of $125 payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1. **Massachusetts EMTs NOT holding NREMT certification**

EMTs who do not hold NREMT certification, or who hold NREMT certification at a different level than their Massachusetts EMT certification, shall contact the Department to request a medical hardship extension.

* 1. Requests for hardship extensions shall be received by the Department prior to expiration, or within 30 days of certification expiration.
  2. Hardship extension requests shall include a written statement from the EMT describing in detail the circumstances of and attesting to the hardship; and describing how it is has prevented the EMT from completing continuing education for a considerable portion of their recertification period.
  3. The request must be accompanied by documentation from the treating medical provider attesting to the type, duration and extent of medical hardship and incapacitation.
  4. The Department will review the submitted application and supporting documentation, and make a determination in writing to the EMT.
  5. Hardship extensions approved by the Department do not alter the EMT’s recertification cycle. Extensions granted in one year may as a result decrease the time available for continuing education approval for the next cycle.
  6. The EMT granted a hardship waiver shall obtain, complete and submit a Department-issued individual recertification application prior to the extended expiration date, and include copies of all continuing education documentation, as well as the $125 non-refundable recertification fee payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.