

Update on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

**Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
San Diego, CA
June 29, 2006**



Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

National Registry

Improve highway safety by producing trained, certified medical examiners who can effectively determine if a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver's health meets FMCSA standards

Objectives

- **Ongoing competency of medical examiners**
- **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) and how they apply to CMV drivers**
- **Accessibility of certified medical examiners**
- **Public confidence in the quality of the medical examination of CMV drivers**

History

1978

1992

1996-97

1999

2005

- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration feasibility study on certifying medical examiners**



History

1978

1992

1996-97

1999

2005

- **FMCSRs amended to expand the pool of medical examiners allowed to conduct physical examinations**



History

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- **Negotiated rulemaking committee to address merger of medical certification with commercial driver's license (CDL)**

History

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- **Introduction of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act to establish the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in United States Department of Transportation**

History

1978

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2005

- **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**



SAFETEA-LU Requirements

- Establish and maintain a current national registry of medical examiners
- Determine which medical examiners are qualified to perform CMV driver physical examinations



Scope

- 4-5 million interstate drivers
- Over 685,000 bus and truck companies
- Train and certify at least 50,000 medical examiners



Scope

•Audience Groups/Stakeholders

- Medical examiners
- CMV drivers
- Motor carriers/bus companies
- Safety groups
- General public
- Federal, state and local transportation agencies
- Labor unions
- Insurance organizations
- Participants (subject matter experts and training and testing groups)



Who is the Medical Examiner?

- “*Medical examiner* means a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered, in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations, to perform physical examinations. The term includes, but is not limited to, doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and doctors of chiropractic.”

Source: 49 CFR 390.5

Issue 1: Consistency

- **Medical examiners**
- **Types of practitioners**
- **Background of practitioners**
- **Scope of practice**
- **Different employers**

(independent, motor carrier or other agency)



Issue 2: Driver Impact

- Knowledge of the medical standards
- Time and scheduling
- Independent owner operators
- Alternative career strategy



Issue 3: Medical Examiner Impact

- Knowledge of FMCSRs and application to driver work environment
- Impact on driver livelihood
- Time and effort to perform examination
- Cost of examination
- Knowledge gap
- Outdated guidance



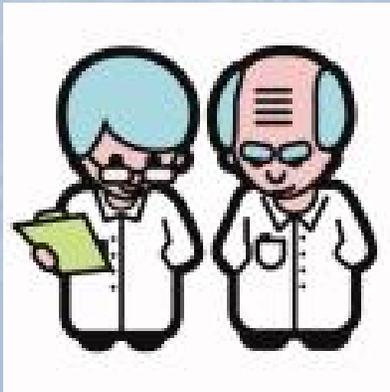
Who Will Provide Medical Examiner Training?

- Training required
- Core curriculum specifications and guidelines
- Private-sector medical training organizations
- Accreditation



NRCME Components

Certification



Medical Examiners

Accreditation



Certification
Program



Training
Programs



National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

- Names and contact information listed on the National Registry Web site
- Phased-in program implementation

Ultimately, only medical certificates issued by medical examiners listed on the National Registry will be accepted



Role Delineation Study

- **Identifies responsibilities of the FMCSA medical examiner**
- **Validates the body of knowledge needed for competent practice**
- **Provides blueprint for certification test and detailed content outline for training curriculum**

Medical Examiner Survey

- Population-based survey of approximately 5,000 medical examiners
- Federal Register notice published September 29, 2005
- Medical examiner volunteers needed



Commercial Driver Fitness Determination

Medical
Examiner



FMCSRs



New Medical
Science



Medical Review Board

Guidelines

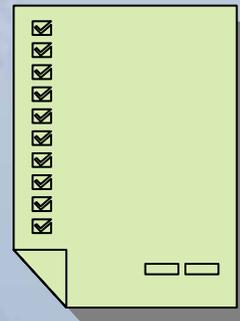
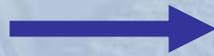


Standards

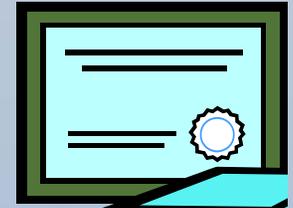
Commercial Driver Fitness Determination



**Medical
Examination**



**Medical
Examination
Report**



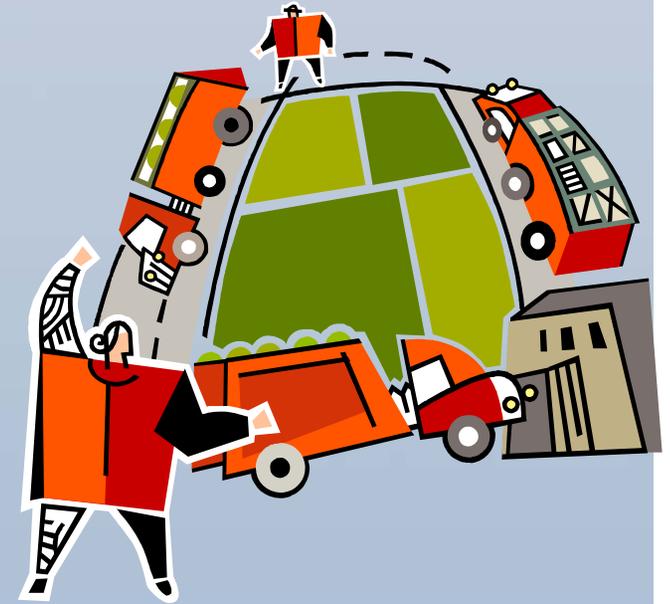
**Medical
Certificate**



Commercial Driver Environment



Perception



Reality

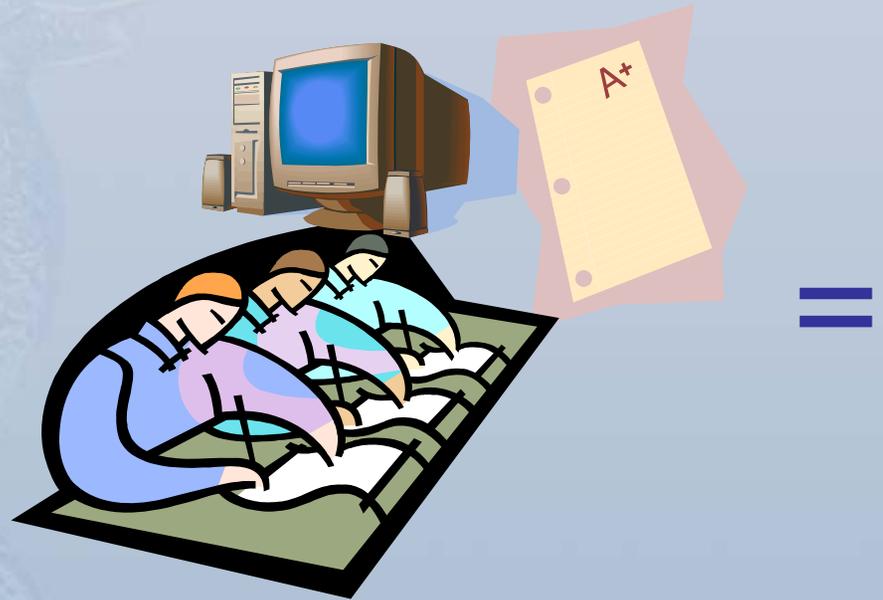


Medical Examiner Certification



Training

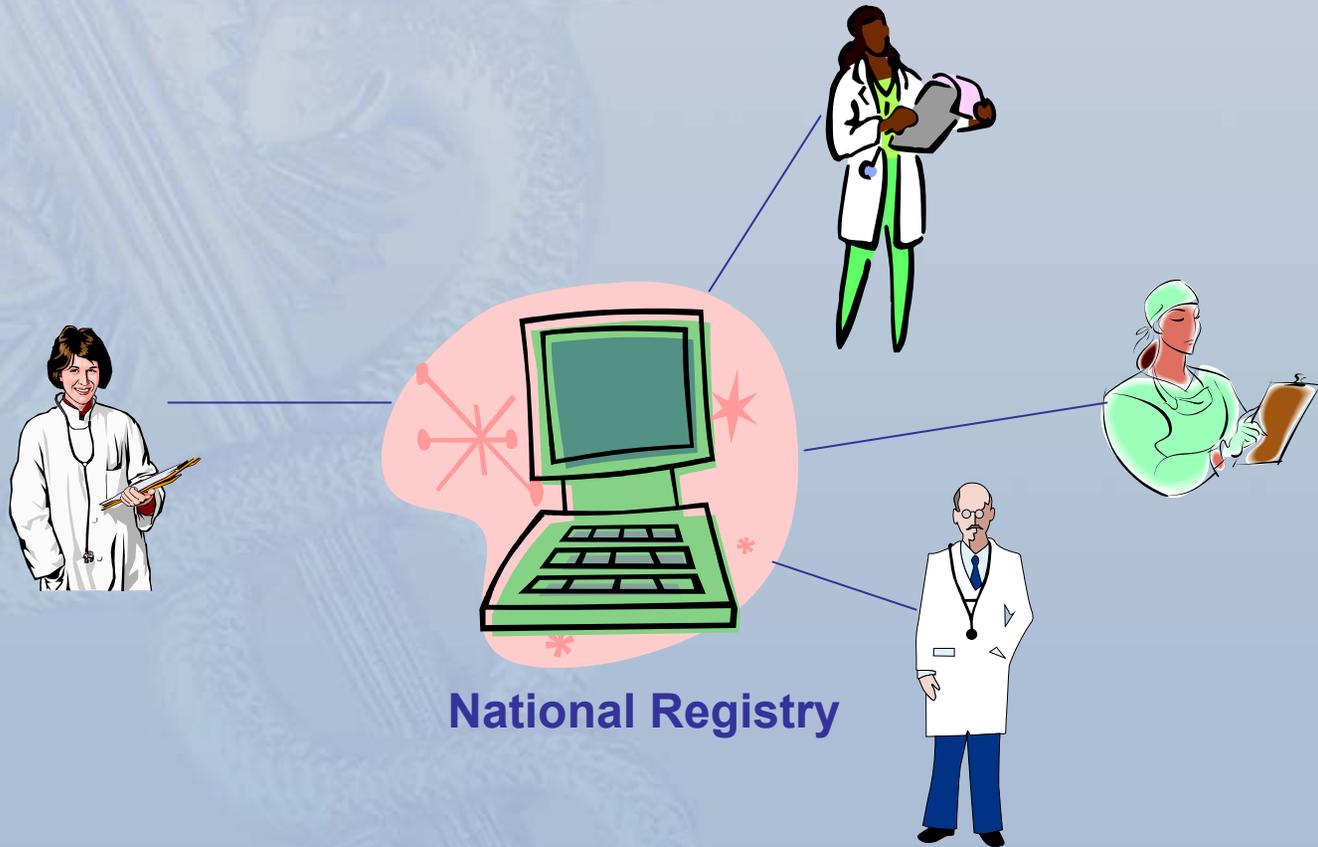
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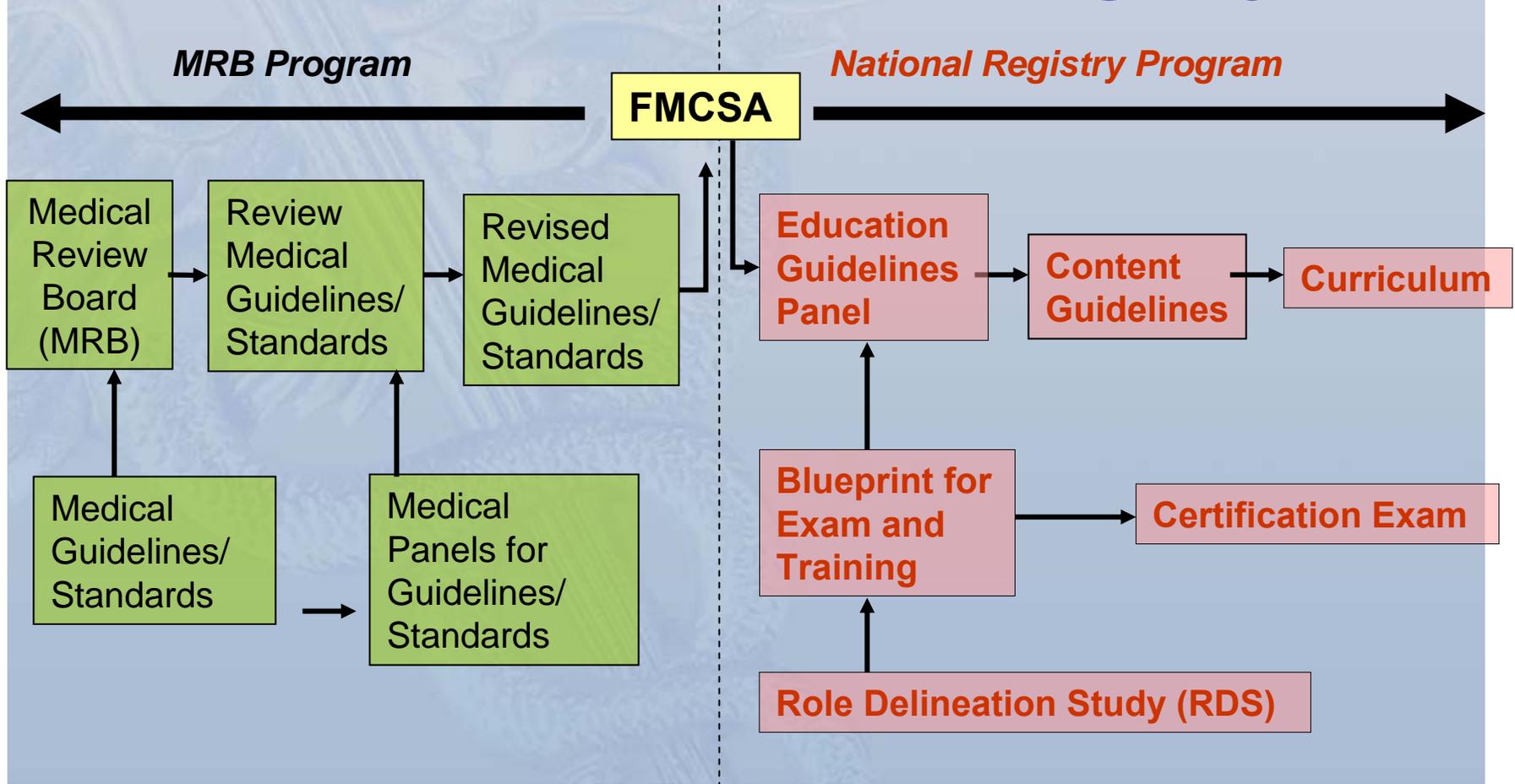
Test

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Medical Examiner Certification



Relationship Between MRB and the National Registry



Information

For more information go to:
www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov

Or e-mail:
contactnrcme@dot.gov

