

# History and Overview of the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME)

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

  
U.S. Department of  
Transportation

# Agenda

Mission & Objectives

History

Scope

NRCME Program

Coordination with the MRB

Certification Process

# Mission and Objectives

## Mission:

To 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:

Maintain Ongoing Competency Of Medical Examiners Through Training, Testing, Certification And Recertification

# Objectives (cont.)

Ensure That Medical Examiners Fully Understand The Medical Standards In The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) And How They Apply To CMV Drivers.

Ensure That The List Of Certified Medical Examiners Is Easily Accessible To Those Who Need It.

Promote Public Confidence In The Quality Of The Medical Examination Of CMV Drivers.



# History

1978

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Feasibility Study On Certifying Medical Examiners.

# History

1992

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations Amended To Expand The Pool Of Medical Examiners Allowed To Conduct Physical Examinations.

# History

1996-97

Negotiated Rulemaking Committee To Address Merger Of Medical Certification With Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

# History

1999

Introduction Of The Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act To Establish The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) In DOT.

Final Act Directed Secretary To Initiate Rulemaking For Driver Physical Qualification To Be Part Of CDL.





# History

2000


National Transportation Safety Board  
Public Hearing In New Orleans.

# History

2003-05

Safe, Accountable, Flexible And Efficient  
Transportation Equity Act.

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# Scope

## Audience Groups/Stakeholders

Medical Examiners

CMV Drivers

Motor Carriers

Safety Groups

General Public

Federal, State And Local Transportation Agencies

Labor Unions

Insurance Organizations

Participants (Subject Matter Experts And Training Groups)

# Scope

Extensive Program – Initially Project To Train And Certify At Least 50,000 Medical Examiners

6 Million Drivers Needing An Examination Every 2 Years

Need Systematic and Systemic Process of Quality Management And Quality Control Over The Medical Examiner System



# Why Quality Management?

Compliance With Approved Standards Of Performance.

Continuous Quality Improvement Through The On-going Assessment Of Quality Professional Performance.

Ensures A Professionally And Legally Sound System Through Certification & Accreditation.

# Why Certification?

Certification Is The Formal Process For Establishing Competence. It Guarantees That Competence Meets Standards.

A Standard Is The Level Of Quality Or Excellence That Is Accepted Or Judged As the Norm, And, In The Case of MEs, Standards Need To Be Established For The Process Of Determining Driver Fitness.

Given That There Is So Much Variation In The Medical Examiner Practice, Certification Provides A Uniform Means of Establishing Competency Based on Those Standards.



# Why Accreditation?

Accreditation Is The Recognition Given By An Association Or Agency To Institutions That Satisfy Compliance With Standards.

Third Party Accreditation, One That Is Disassociated From The Certification Process, Provides The Highest Level of Quality Management And Avoids Bias.

We Are Seeking Third Party Accreditation Such As From The National Organization For Competency Assurance (NOCA).



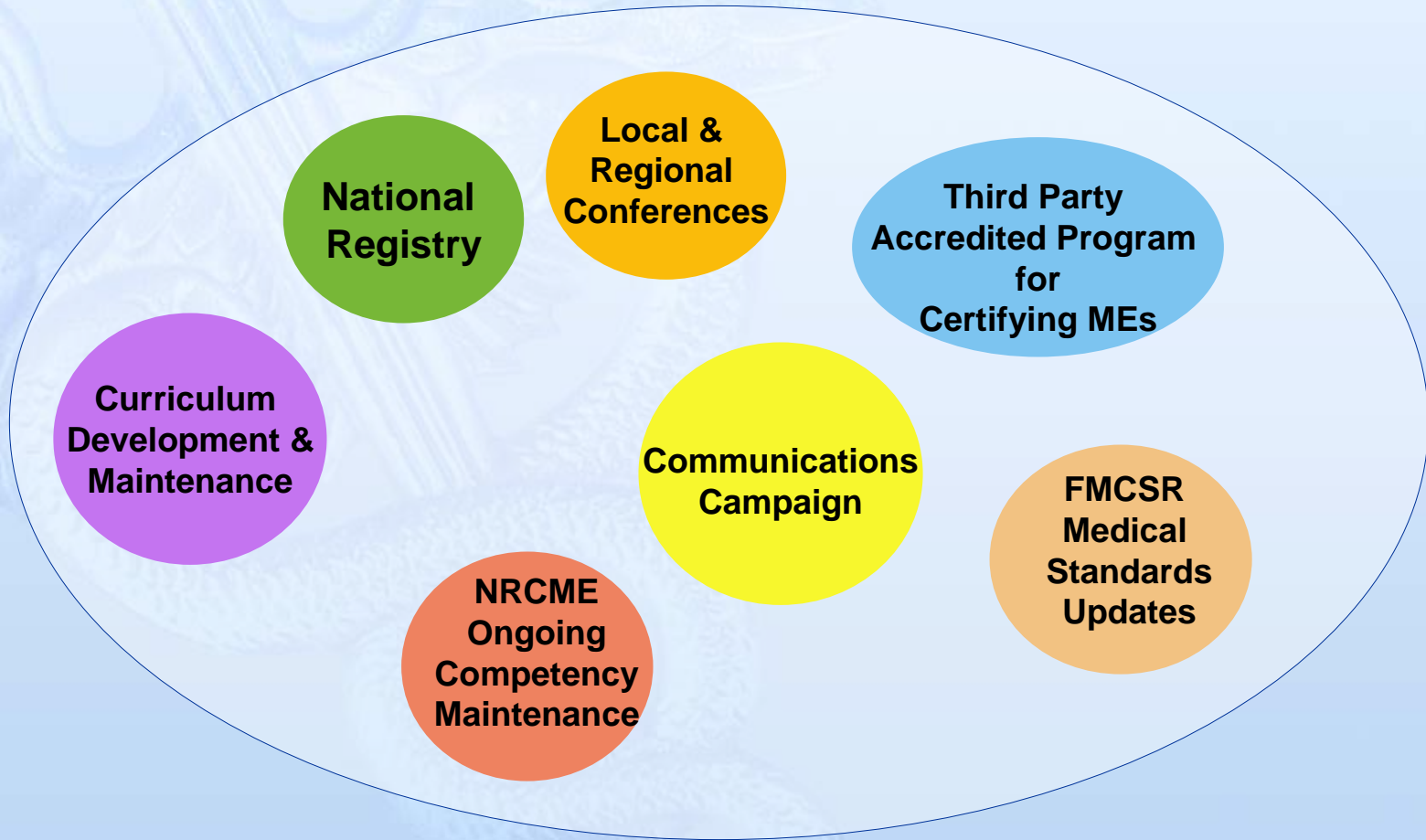
# NRCME Program

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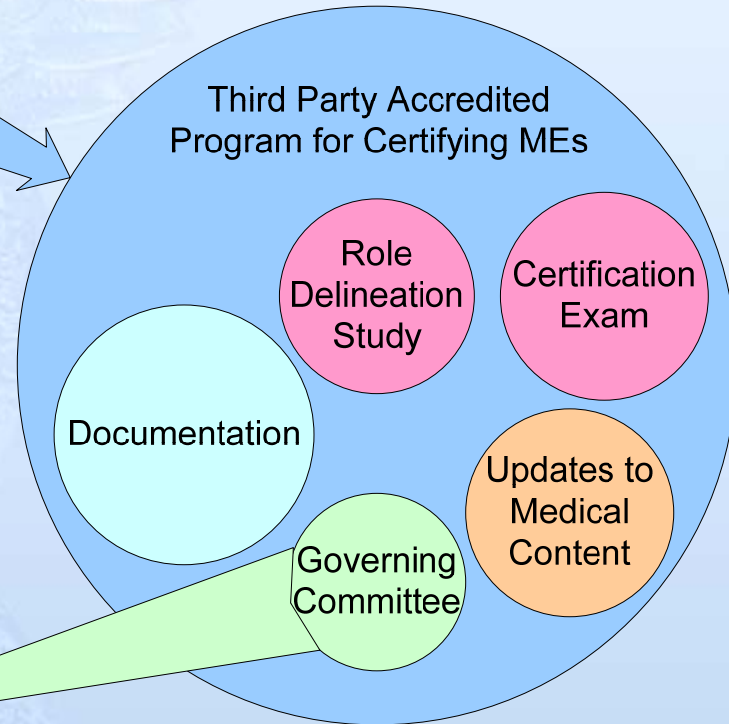
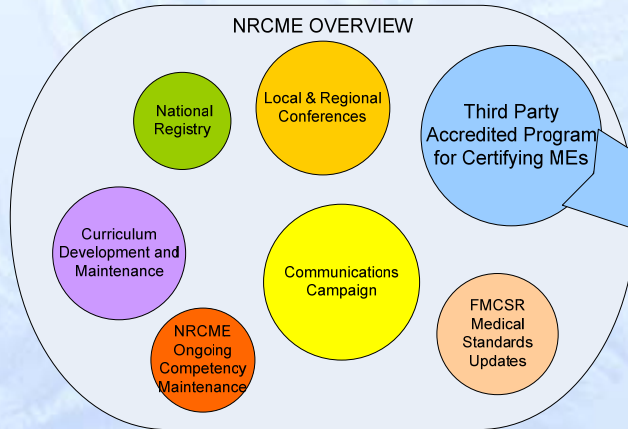
  
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# NRCME Overview



# Accreditation Program



- Governing Committee**
- FMCSA Representatives
  - Candidate population:
    - MD
    - DO
    - NP
    - DC
    - PA
  - CMV Driver
  - Interested Public
  - Employers:
    - Motor Carrier
    - Health Service Provider

# Impact of Accreditation Standards

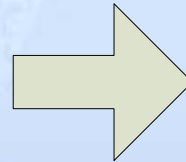
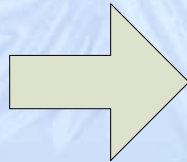
## Standards

## Documentation

## Participation Requirements

Legal Standards

Professional Standards



Information Dissemination

Candidate Materials

Process Accountability

Policy and Procedures

Governing Committee

Education Committee

Exam Development Committee

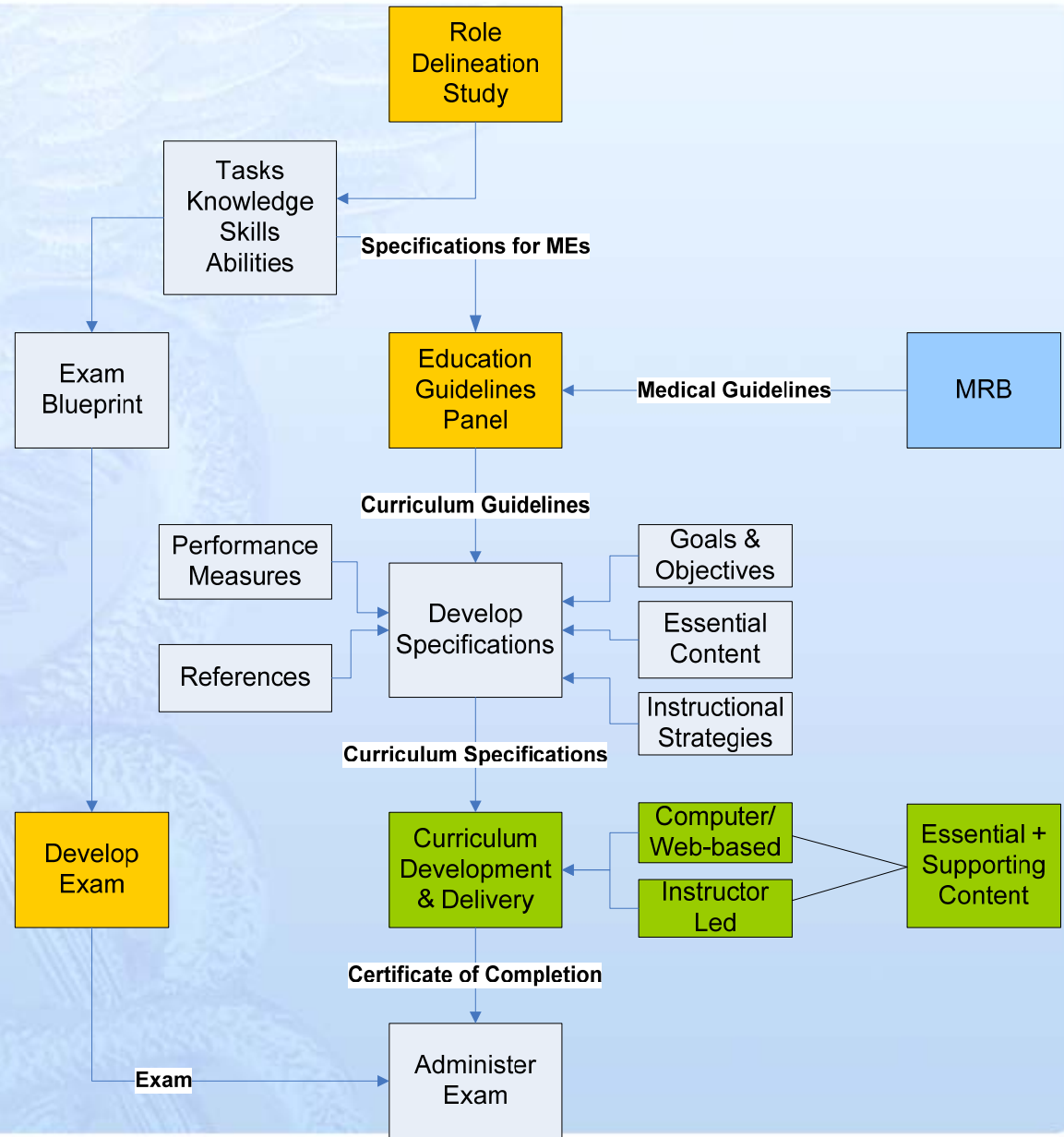
Training Development & Delivery

Exam Development Validation

Role Delineation Study Validation

Maintenance and Update of Exam and Training

# Training and Certification Process



# Coordination with the Medical Review Board (MRB)

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# What does the MRB Do?

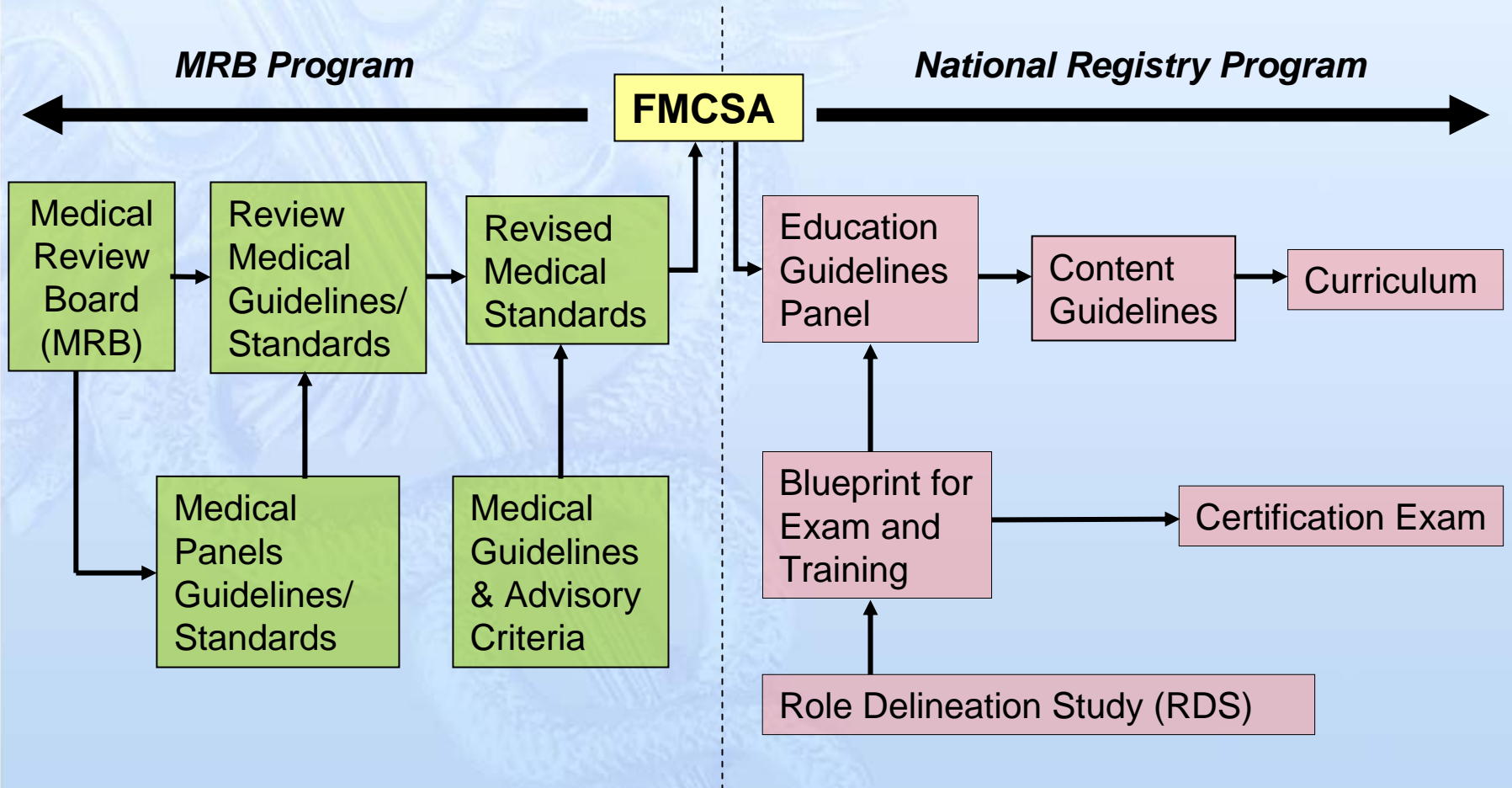
The MRB Recommends Changes To FMCSA Medical Standards And Provides Guidelines And Medical Advisory Criteria.

The MRB Identifies Medical Conditions That Increase Operator Risk Of Sudden Death Or Incapacitation.

The MRB Makes Recommendations For Medical Examiner Training And Certification.



# Relationship Between the MRB & The National Registry



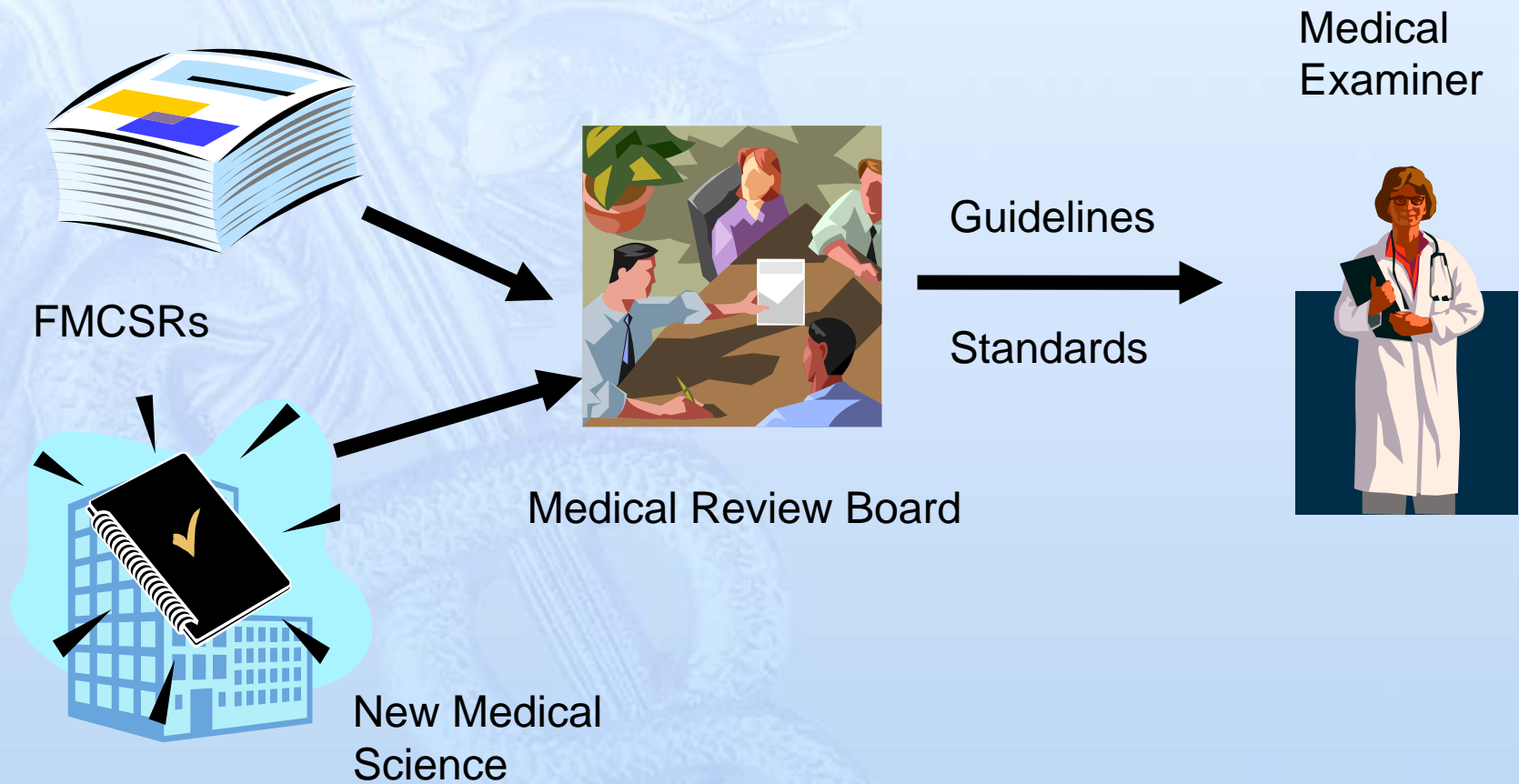
# Certification Process: Quick Glance

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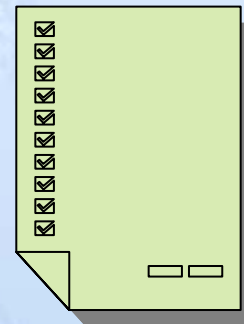
# Commercial Driver Fitness Determination



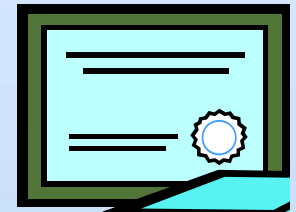
# Commercial Driver Fitness Determination



Medical Examination



Medical  
Examination  
Report

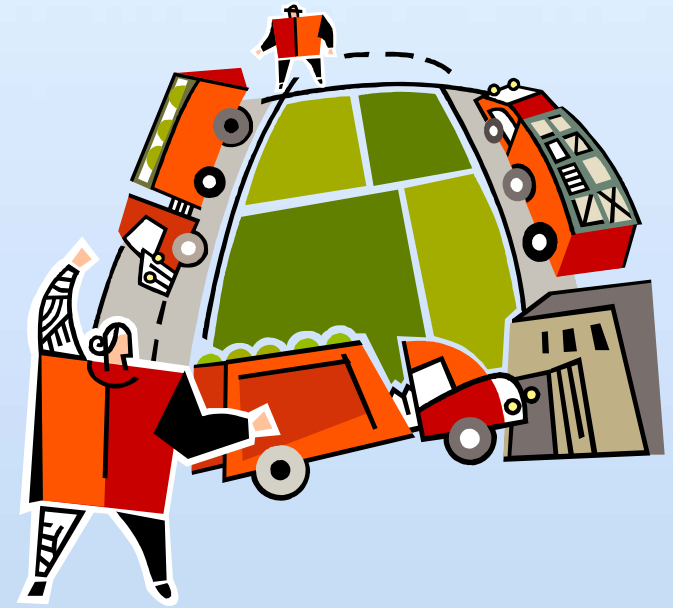


Medical  
Examiner  
Certificate

# Commercial Driver Environment



Perception



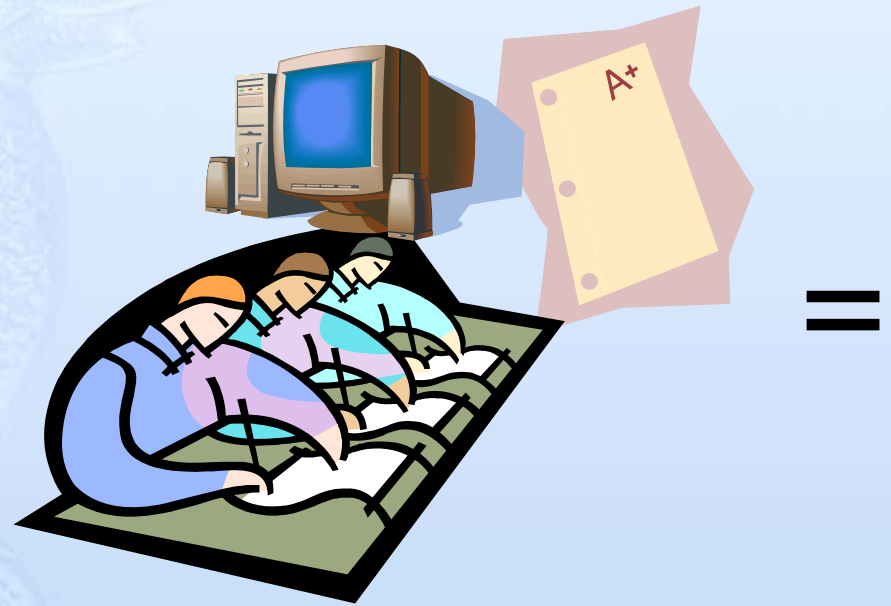
Reality

# Medical Examiner Certification



Training

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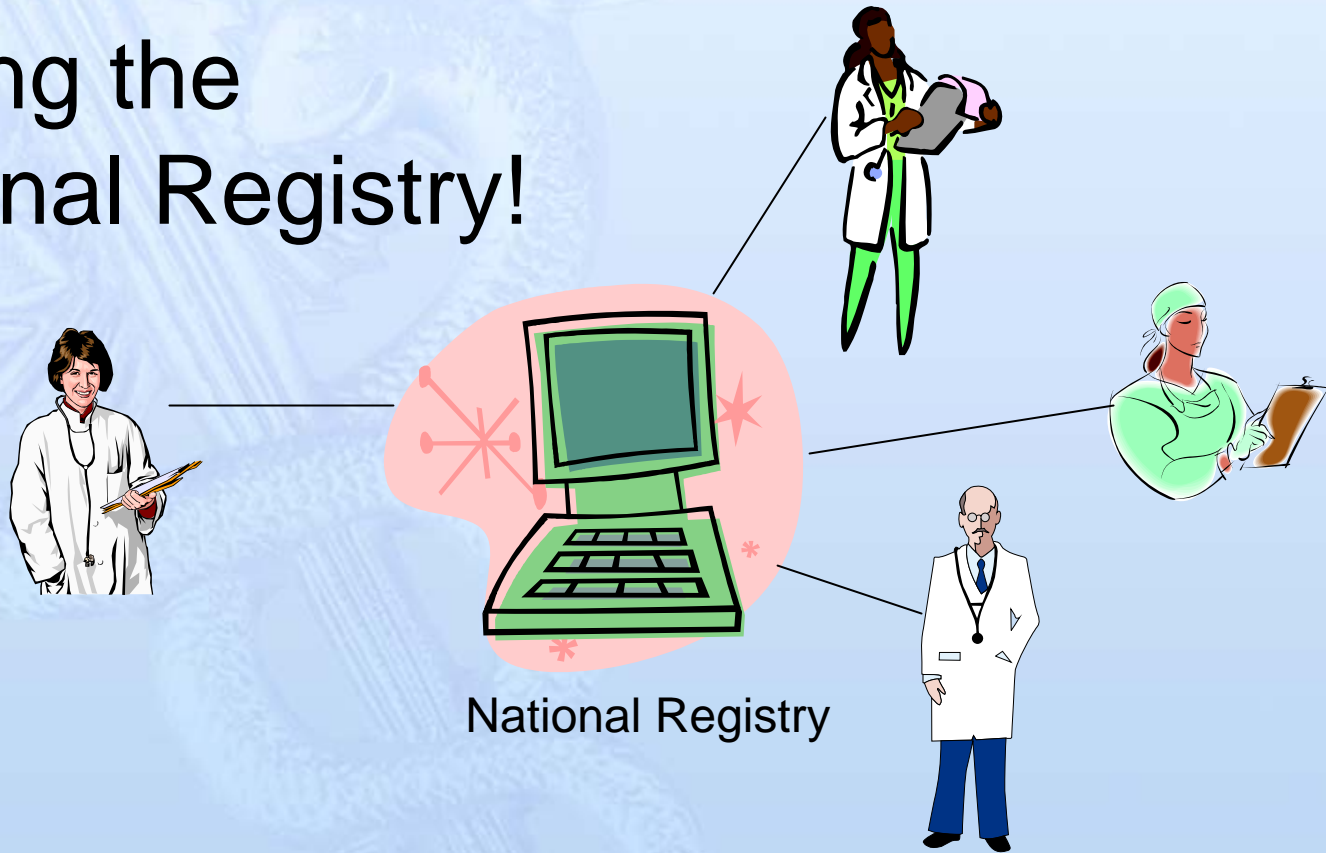


Exam

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# Medical Examiner's Certification

## Making the National Registry!





For more information go to:  
[www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov)

or e-mail:  
[contactnrcme@fmcsa.dot.gov](mailto:contactnrcme@fmcsa.dot.gov)