EXAM FEES

FP-C®, CCP-C® and CP-C® Exam Fees

- Paper/Pencil (Onsite)
  - $225 (IAFCCP, PCC & PAC members)
  - $325 (non-members)
- Computer-Based (CBT)
  - $285 (IAFCCP, PCC & PAC members)
  - $385 (non-members)

TP-C® Exam Fees

- Paper/Pencil (Onsite) = $325
- Computer-Based (CBT) = $385

TR-C® Exam Fees

- Paper/Pencil (Onsite) = $195
- Computer-Based (CBT) = $195

There is a $100 fee for switching certification choice or exam delivery method (i.e. switching from CCP-C to FP-C; or switching from computer-based to paper/pencil).

There is a $100 fee for rescheduling the exam date if within 30 days of the confirmed testing date. Prior to 30 days, there is no fee.

WHAT IS SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION?

Specialty Certification is a voluntary credentialing process designed to validate essential knowledge and judgment required for safe and competent practice. Specialty Certification is not a substitute for entry-level certification and licensure, but a tool to validate additional knowledge and dovetail with existing systems.

The Board for Critical Care Transport Paramedic Certification (BCCTPC) and the International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC) developed exams to provide specialty certification designations for professionals who demonstrate knowledge, experience and excellence in a variety of specialty areas.

In today’s complex healthcare system, providers are engaged in specialized practice areas that require substantial additional knowledge and experience beyond what can be expected from an entry-level practitioner. The historical evolution of paramedicine has created a situation in which specialized practice is not well defined or accepted, yet is demanded by advances in the science of medicine.

Appropriate regulation of specialized practice has developed over nearly two centuries in medicine, nursing and other allied health professions. However, in EMS, multiple regulatory agencies have not been able to adopt a uniform schema nor a definition that is uniformly applied around the world. While it is clear that specialty certification processes evolve slowly, existing models provide for effective, safe and standardized specialty education programs with valid examination and ultimately improved patient outcomes. The International Board of Specialty Certification is an organized and functional specialty board that has a mission to support all specialties in specialized occupations everywhere in the world. IBSC is the only organization offering a psychometrically valid and legally defensible framework for specialty certification that answers the question of how to quantify competency in a specialty area like critical care transport or tactical medicine.

The IBSC certification process is the only one of its kind and creates a universally recognized means for medical professionals, employers and the public to understand that paramedics holding this specialty certification qualify to work in the domain of paramedicine beyond that of an entry-level paramedic.

ABOUT THE IBSC

The Board for Critical Care Transport Paramedic Certification was formed in the summer of 2000. The mission of the BCCTPC is to provide certification exams that are an objective, fair, and honest validation of specialty paramedic knowledge. The BCCTPC, a non-profit organization, was formed to develop and administer certification examinations for paramedics. The Certified Flight Paramedic (FP-C®), Certified Critical Care Paramedic (CCP-C®) and Certified Tactical Paramedic (TP-C®) examinations are now well established and have become a recognized standard for clinical competency by medical providers in the United States, Europe, South Africa and the Middle East. The Board has recently launched the Certified Community Paramedic (CP-C®), the Certified Tactical Responder (TR-C®) and in collaboration with the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) the Certified Medical Transportation Professional (MTSP-C).

January 1, 2016, the BCCTPC evolved to become the International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC). Built on the same not-for-profit model with a mission of developing, implementing and maintaining specialty certification exams to measure the attainment and application of a defined body of knowledge in specific roles. The IBSC was formed with the objective of providing a wider range of services and certifications to a broader audience beyond the focus of medical transport and tactical paramedicine. The core certifications of the BCCTPC will not be affected by this change. The BCCTPC will continue to provide honest and fair certification for medical professionals specializing in tactical and transport related areas.

During the course of establishing valid and objective credentialing standards for transport paramedics, the BCCTPC oversight committee recognized a growing need for standards and credentialing for a wider spectrum of medical specialties. The BCCTPC will retain oversight of the critical care exams while it serves as a subsidiary of the IBSC, specializing in transport and tactical paramedicine. Other exams, like the Certified Community Paramedic (CP-C) and Medical Transportation Safety Professional (MTSP-C), will be supervised by independent advisory boards for each domain.

In an effort to manage this growth and potential future regulation, the IBSC was created to identify key areas of influence while establishing fair and objective standards.
The IBSC/BCCTPC examinations are the only standardized approach to specialty occupational competency validation that relies on a single, independent, profession-based and collaborative Board from the community. This approach serves to ensure public safety while advancing the quality of care provided by practitioners and fostering their status amongst their healthcare colleagues.

Since our formation in 2000, we have partnered with Applied Measurement Professionals (a PSI Business) to develop and maintain our exams. AMP is a leader in test validation and psychometric analysis and our exams follow methods such as those detailed in the Standards for Educational and Psychological testing by the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurements in Education, which provide the research framework that is used as a basis for validity of certification.

The methodology used meets current professional and government standards to assure the defensibility of the exam, as well as meet or exceed the standards of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA).

Please read on for explanations of all of the specialty certifications offered by the IBSC.

The MTSP-C certification process is focused on the science and application of the discipline of safety systems in the air medical and critical care transport industry. The exam measures the many aspects of the management of safety across the entire enterprise of medical transportation – with special emphasis on safety management systems, patient safety, aviation/vehicle operational safety, and workplace safety.

ELIGIBILITY

- Completion of the AAMS Safety Management Training Academy (SMTA)

CERTIFICATION & RENEWAL

- Certification is valid for four years
- CE appropriate to area of practice.
The FP-C certification process is focused on the knowledge level of accomplished, experienced paramedics currently associated with a Flight and/or Critical Care Transport Team(s). The questions on the examination are based in sound paramedicine. The candidate is expected to maintain a significant knowledge of current ACLS, PALS, NRP, & ITLS/PHTLS standards. This examination is not meant to test entry-level knowledge, but rather to test the experienced paramedic’s skills and knowledge of critical care transport.

CERTIFICATION

- Required by some states and certifying bodies to function in the air medical environment

ELIGIBILITY

- Must hold a current unrestricted paramedic license
- Three years of experience in critical care transport is encouraged

CERTIFICATION & RENEWAL

- Certification is valid for four years
- Two ways to renew the FP-C Certification:
  - Examination every 4 years
  - 84 hours of CE appropriate to area of practice, plus 16 hours of an approved critical care transport review course

RECOGNITION

Today, fifteen states formally recognize Paramedic Specialty Certification as a reliable measure of competency with no additional cost to the States.

Employers support Specialty Certification because of improved patient outcomes and safety improvements, and as a mechanism for increased reimbursement success.

Accreditation bodies support Specialty Certification and provide assurance that the provider meets national public standards in patient safety and care.

The success of the certified paramedic has created a universally recognized means for medical professionals, employers, and the public to understand that paramedics holding this specialty certification have additional knowledge in the domain of paramedicine beyond that of an entry-level paramedic.¹

CERTIFICATION versus COURSE COMPLETION

- IBSC specialty certifications are not developed as an end-of-course objective.
- Exams are psychometrically valid and legally defensible.
- Exams are established to accurately assess current knowledge and critical thinking skills.
- Based on a national job analysis study, IBSC exams promote a national standard of competency and continuity of care.
- Credential recognition at the state level ensures continuity of patient care on interstate medical transports and on inter-facility medical transports.
The expectation for the CCP-C exam candidate is a mastery of current trends and therapies in critical care transport medicine in a flight or ground environment, as well as a significant knowledge of ACLS, PALS, NRP and BTLS/ITLS. The certification exams are not meant to test entry-level knowledge, but rather the experienced paramedic’s advanced skill level.

CERTIFICATION

- Required by some states and certifying bodies to function in the critical care transport environment

ELIGIBILITY

- Must hold a current unrestricted paramedic license
- Experience in the community paramedic/MIH environment is encouraged
- Completion of a formalized community paramedic/MIH training program

CERTIFICATION & RENEWAL

Certification is valid for four years
- Two ways to renew the CCP-C Certification:
  - Examination every 4 years
  - 84 hours of CE appropriate to area of practice, plus 16 hours of an approved review course

The Community Paramedic is ideally suited to provide better care for the community through non-emergency interaction with patients in the community, integration and coordination with a variety of needed services and improved patient navigation.

CP-C exam candidates should have considerable knowledge in mobile integrated healthcare, and expanded EMS services in rural and urban settings, including various healthcare, mental health, and housing and service needs.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must hold a current unrestricted paramedic license
- Three years of experience in critical care transport is encouraged
- Completion of a formalized community paramedic/MIH training program

CERTIFICATION & RENEWAL

Certification is valid for four years
- Two ways to renew the CP-C Certification:
  - Examination every 4 years
  - 84 hours of CE appropriate to area of practice, plus 16 hours of an approved review course
The TP-C exam establishes a single valid psychometric standard for tactical paramedics operating in military and law enforcement communities. The TP-C exam is based on the 17 critical domains from the 2011 CDC-TIDE workshop using standards developed by CoTCCC and C-TECC guidelines as well as the USSOCOM Tactical Trauma Protocols and reflect “best practices” of tactical teams. The expectation of the TP-C candidate is competency in casualty assessment, stabilization, and evacuation in hostile environments.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must hold a current unrestricted paramedic license
- Current experience working in the tactical environment
- Three years of experience in critical care transport/emergency medicine is strongly recommended

CERTIFICATION & RENEWAL

- Certification is valid for four years
- Two ways to renew the TP-C Certification:
  - Examination every 4 years
  - 75 hours of clinical education with TEMS focus and 25 hours of tactical operations education

Like the TP-C exam, the TR-C is based on the 17 critical domains from the 2011 CDC-TIDE workshop using standards developed by CoTCCC and C-TECC guidelines as well as the USSOCOM Tactical Trauma Protocols and reflect “best practices” of tactical teams. This exam validates candidate’s competency in Basic or Intermediate level casualty assessment, stabilization, and evacuation in hostile environments.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must hold a EMR or higher or active LEO credential
- Current experience work in the tactical environment

CERTIFICATION & RENEWAL

- Complete 16 hours of tactical casualty care education consistent with current TCCC/TECC guidelines that are state or provincial or CAPCE approved.
- Medical Director Competencies (CANADA)
- If not currently certified at the minimum EMR level, the candidate must submit 3 items:
  A. A letter requesting an exception from IBSC policy that the candidate does not hold current EMR or higher licensure but has a medical role on the tactical team.
  B. A letter from the TEMS medical director endorsing their request for continued TR-C certification.
  C. A letter outlining 32 hours of continuing medical education appropriate to the candidates skill level that has been accomplished in the prior 4 years.