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A Non-Profit Cooperative to Improve Health Care and Reduce Members' Costs

Relevance of Didactic GPA in Paramedic School to Successful Completion of the National Registry Paramedic Cognitive and Practical Exam

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Introduction:

Over the years there have been studies conducted to measure whether independent exams could predict pass rates of students taking the National Registry Paramedic (NREMT-P) Exam. Although this may be useful in screening paramedic student candidates prior to entering a Paramedic Program, what can be used to predict how a student who already completed and passed a Paramedic Program would perform on the NREMT Exam? If a student's didactic scores were a predictor, additional preparatory measures could be provided to the student prior to testing in order to increase the likelihood of successful completion on their first attempt.

Hypothesis:

Students who graduate the didactic portion of a Paramedic program with a higher GPA are more likely to pass the National Registry Paramedic Exam (cognitive and practical) on the initial attempt.

Methods:

This was a retrospective study of 101 paramedic students from 2000-2006 who successfully completed their didactic paramedic training at a community college with a final GPA of greater than or equal to 75.

Results:

Of the 101 students studied 42 student passed the NREMT exam on the initial attempt with an average grade of 86.5%; 6 students passed on their second attempt with an average grade of 84.0%; 2 students passed on their third attempt with an average grade of 81.0%; 3 students passed on their fourth attempt with an average grade of 78.6.0%; 4 students did not pass the exam, their average grade was 78%. Of the remaining 44 students 14 chose not to test, and 30 are still in the clinical portion of their training and are not yet eligible to test.

Conclusion:

Students that achieved a higher GPA in their didactic paramedic training were more likely to pass their National Registry Paramedic Exam (cognitive and practical) on the first attempt.