

# Non-Emergency Patient Transport Crew: PTO and Clinical Escort Qualifications

Advisory Notice 12/24

Revised July 2024

## Introduction

This Advisory Notice supplements the *Ambulance Service (Non-Emergency Patient Transport) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) and specifies the base qualifications required for Clinical Escorts and Patient Transport Officers employed by Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) providers.

## Licensee responsibility

Licensees of private NEPT services must adhere to the Regulations and ensure that crew members are suitably qualified and possess the necessary knowledge and skills to provide high-quality NEPT services and ensure patient safety during the transportation of low or medium acuity patients.

Private NEPT services undergo audits to ensure compliance with crew member qualification and experience criteria.

## Clinical Escort

A Clinical Escort must be registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) as either an Enrolled Nurse, Registered Nurse, Paramedic or Medical Practitioner.

Clinical Escorts provide clinical care and monitoring for medium acuity NEPT patients in accordance with the NEPT service's approved medium acuity scope of practice.

## Patient Transport Officer

A Patient Transport Officer (PTO) must hold a Certificate III in Non-Emergency Patient Transport or approved equivalent qualification, training, or experience. By obtaining the Certificate III in NEPT qualification, graduates demonstrate both theoretical and practical knowledge and skills relevant to working as a NEPT PTO.

Certificate III in NEPT is a regulated qualification under the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#).

Details of the course content for *HLT31120 – Certificate III in Non-Emergency Patient Transport (Release 4)* can be found here: <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/HLT31120>.

Registered Training Organisations can be found on the national register of vocational education and training here: <https://training.gov.au/Search>.

## Equivalent qualification, training, or experience

If an individual holds qualifications, training, or experience listed below, they are deemed equivalent to the Certificate III in NEPT. As a result, they do not need to obtain an additional Certificate III in NEPT qualification to work as a PTO in Tasmania. However, it is essential that the employee operates within the scope of practice for a PTO, regardless of the specific qualification they have obtained or are currently undergoing training for.

**Table 1: Approved equivalent qualifications for Cert III in NEPT**

UTAS Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (Min 5-year)	Either full completion or currently studying and have completed first year of study and CAM202 Practical Experience Placement (PEP).
UTAS Bachelor of Paramedicine (2-year program)	Full completion or currently studying and have completed Year 1, Study Period 3, Paramedicine in Clinical Context 1 CAAI 12.
UTAS Bachelor of Nursing (2-year fast track program)	Full completion or currently studying and have successfully completed the second PEP NUR239 Nursing Practice 2.
UTAS Bachelor of Nursing (3-year program)	Full completion or currently studying and have completed the second PEP NUR239 Nursing Practice 2
HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled Nurse)	Full completion or currently studying and have completed a minimum of first clinical practice placement.

\*As at 26/6/24

On completion of the employee's Bachelor's Degree or Diploma course outlined above, the individual would qualify as a Clinical Escort for the NEPT service. It is essential that they work within the defined scope of practice for a Clinical Escort.

## Is it possible to get credit for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and/or experience?

The Department of Health is not an educational institution that provides the Certificate III in NEPT. As a result, they cannot offer assessments for recognition of prior learning to potential candidates or existing NEPT staff with alternative Cert III qualifications.

### Regulation, Licensing and Accreditation Unit

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Individuals in this situation should apply to a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that offers the *HLT31120 Certificate III in Non-Emergency Patient Transport* course. The RTO will assess their RPL and determine any additional learning needs on an individual basis.

## Questions and further information

For all questions or further information on NEPT visit [Non-emergency patient transport | Tasmanian Department of Health](#) or contact 6166 3856 / [nept@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:nept@health.tas.gov.au)

This document was approved by the Associate Secretary of the Department of Health, on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

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