



SEPTEMBER 2019

PLATINUM
EDUCATIONAL GROUP

EMS PROFESSIONS

The **Platinum Educational Group** monthly newsletter is dedicated to EMS instructors, administrators, and providers. If you have any questions please reach out to us anytime either by [email](#) or call **616.818.7877**.

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School's in Session. How Can We Help?

By now, many of you are back to the grind faced by educators every year! The many hours a week spent on students is enormous, but we are here to help!

If you:

- Create and administer your own tests
- Utilize paper tests
- Are NOT using computer adaptive testing
- Use Excel spreadsheets for tracking student skills
- Currently use an electronic solution that you are not happy with (cost, customer service, site downtime, etc.)

THEN CONTACT US TODAY! It is NOT too late for you to utilize our electronic solutions even if your current course has already started! Make this upcoming school year easier by looking at our solutions outfitted for EMS training institutions! We have even made scheduling a demo easy and at YOUR convenience! Learn more about how Platinum Educational Group can assist your program in this newsletter.

The Staff at Platinum Educational Group



Who is Platinum Educational Group, exactly?

As Platinum Educational Group continues to broaden the versatility of their solutions for healthcare professions, as well as increase our audience, we would like to remind people of who we are and

what we do!

We are staunch advocates for the highest degree of training for all EMS levels. **We are proud to boast the best study prep and skills tracking programs for each.**

"Platinum Educational Group is always ahead of the ever changing game!" - Dr. Kelly Weller Ed.D, RN, LP EMS-C, Program Director EMS, Lone Star College - Montgomery

Factoid: We have delivered over 180 new features to our customers, many at their request, since 2015!

Our Mission: Deliver valid and reliable testing, assessment, scheduling, skills tracking, and reporting solutions.

Our Vision: Every learner in the world can benefit from our solutions.



Message from the CEO: Policy on Unauthorized Publishing of our Content

Attention School Administrators and Instructors!

Platinum Educational Group has been transparent and diligent in informing schools about the need to protect our copyrighted content against unauthorized publishing onto several different "study" websites on-line.

Per our terms and conditions (TOS): Platinum Educational Group explicitly prohibits the storing and/or retrieving, downloading, copying, cutting and pasting, transcribing, or otherwise duplicating or distributing, displaying, posting, or modifying any PEG content, information, or materials. All users must agree to the terms of service after creating their account and are reminded of the TOS and consequences of violation before they are allowed to take any tests.

[Read Full Article](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Support Team at 616.818.7877.



Platinum Educational Group Says Good Luck to Beloved Employee

On August 9, our organization experienced what is best described internally as a sentinel event. Our colleague, friend and lead trainer David Smith completed his last day working at PEG. In mid-July, he gave the owners notice that his last training session was on the horizon and his last day with us would be August 9.

David as many of you know, had been with our team a very long time and leaves us some big shoes to fill. In fact, besides the founding partners and some of our independent contractors, David holds the record as the longest serving team member at PEG. For over eight years David shared his skills, personality and wit with all of us and you. From his first days in the office until his final days as our senior software trainer, David has left his mark on how we do things around here.

So, before I shape this message any more like an obituary than it already is. David will be deeply missed and the entire team at PEG wishes him well on his next journey. All the best David!



Challenge Coin Giveaway

This September we are giving away two Challenge Coins! YES, TWO!

Snag one of these awesome coins for yourself! The contest rules are very easy! Simply go to our [Facebook Review Page](#) and give us a star rating. That's it! If you want to double your chances, then simply provide a short review about us or of your experience with us! Winners will be randomly drawn on September 30!

In addition to special contests, each month we randomly select a profile that has liked our [Fan Page](#). That person/company receives an awesome "thank you" package from us! So, go ahead and give us a "like" — YOU MAY BE OUR NEXT WINNER! September's awardee is **Ron Feller from Oklahoma City, OK!**



Palm Beach State College EMS Student Awarded \$1000 National Scholarship

The 2019 Platinum Educational Group Emergency Medical Services scholarship was awarded to student Nicholas Holland. Mr. Holland is enrolled in Palm Beach State College's 2019 - 2020 paramedic program located in Lake Worth, FL. Nick's thesis defines the importance of mentorship in the firefighting vocation. "Mentorship plays a significant role in helping those reluctant firefighters seek the help they may not realize is needed," stated Mr. Holland. "With mentorship in this profession, the firefighters involved could see an improvement to both their professional and personal lives."

Please help us celebrate Nick's achievement by going to our [Facebook Page](#), liking this post, and sharing it! This also creates awareness for future EMS students to apply! You never know who may need this funding! Thanks, and we hope to see YOUR students apply next year!

[View All Previous Scholarship Recipients Here](#)

[Click to be put on the 2020 Notification List \(April 2020\)](#)

New Features Updates

By the Dev Team

[NEW FEATURES: September 1, 2019](#)

[NEW FEATURES: August 2019](#)

[NEW FEATURES: July 2019](#)

EMSTESTING.COM

Platinum Educational Group Solutions for EMS Training Programs

Top Five Reasons to Use EMSTesting

- **True Computer Adaptive Testing Practice that mimics the format of the National Registry exam!**
- **Most Validated Solution available, over 160,000,000 responses to date!**
- **Over 5,000 question test bank; with questions FOR ALL provider levels!**
- **Group Testing feature turns learning into a fun game!**
- **EMSTesting can be used with any EMS textbook, regardless of publisher!**

Join the hundreds of other programs that have adopted our solutions to make their EMR-EMT-AEMT-Paramedic program run as smoothly as possible! We offer the most reliable and valid testing on the market via [EMSTesting](#). We provide the only Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) testing prep program that mimics the National Registry Exam! We will help your program raise your pass rates and we offer a [100% guarantee*](#) to back that!

"My paramedic program started using EMSTesting.com in 2013 and I have to say that it is the best testing platform that I have experienced in my 15 years as an educator. The students that graduate from our program are well prepared for the national exam. We just started using the solution for my EMT program and our pass rate has improved greatly! - Rob Dowling, Director of EMS, Franciscan Health Crown Point

Easy Demo Scheduling!

Top Five Reasons to Use PlatinumPlanner

- Ready for Appendix G changes since July 2018!
- Accreditation Standards! Meets/Exceeds what accrediting bodies are looking for!
- Customizable to meet YOUR program specific needs!
- Provides students with a FREE mobile app that works both online and offline!
- There is NO Institutional fee just a competitive nominal per-student fee!

In addition to testing, we also provide a complete skills tracking, scheduling and reporting solution called [PlatinumPlanner](#). This flexible program tracks schedules, skills, and patient encounters. It assists in clinicals, labs, and scenario experiences. It generates reports for student progress, accreditation standards, and [NREMT Portfolio requirements](#), and the recent [CoAEMSP Appendix G](#) changes! **Platinum Planner also offers free preceptor training - something our competitors do not!**

Do not waste time tracking your students with paper and pencil! Stop paying more for inferior software! We have an easier and more cost-effective clinical tracking solution!

"Our training coordinator unexpectedly had to go out for several months on extended sick leave and I had to take over some of the tasks. It had been several years since I had worked extensively in Platinum Planner. When I called with questions, they were able to walk me through over the phone. Great Customer Support!" - Diane Koch, EMS Specialist, Yakima County Emergency Medical Services

Easy Demo Scheduling!

Appendix G: Advice for Programs

By Thomas Gottschalk, COO, Medical Educator

The majority of CAAHEP accredited programs will be dipping their toes into the new G arena for the first or second time this fall. Whether your program is 'diving into the deep end' voluntarily or doing so kicking and screaming. We have some advice for both types of programs who are skills tracking in 2019.

[Read Full Article](#)



How EMSTesting Is Different: A Ten Part Series - Part Four: Platinum Educational Group Final Exams

By John Spencer, Lead Medical Educator and Tom Gottschalk, COO

"Exams test your memory, life tests your learning; others will test your patience." - Fennel Hudson

Everyone would like to have a valid and defensible final exam that is a reliable indicator of student success at the national certification exam. The creation of such an exam is a very time-consuming process. First the exam blueprint must be created and then the item writing process can begin. Once the item writing process has been completed, the piloting phase can start. Each item that was created for the exam must be piloted to validate its performance. Of course, no item is perfect, and revisions must be made after the initial pilot.

[Read Full Article](#)



Platinum Copyright Protection Measures

By Tom Gottschalk, COO, Medical Educator

There is a popular myth that if you put a frog in boiling water, it will jump out immediately. And the fable adds, if you put a frog in cold to warm water and gradually heat up the water, the frog will sit still and boil to death. While established to be an untrue allegory, the reference has become iconic in political and spirituality discussions. Nevertheless, despite the challenging science behind this tale, the take home points seem constant in most interpretations. That inaction to gradual change, results in a lethal end. Which I find pretty intriguing.

[Read Full Article](#)

Upcoming Conferences & Expos!

[10/6/19 to 10/8/19 Savannah, GA - GAEMS](#)

[10/10/19 to 10/11/19 Lansing, MI - SMEMSIC](#)

[10/14/19 to 10/18/19 New Orleans, LA EMS World Expo](#)

[10/23/19 to 10/25/19 Reynoldsburg, OH OSFSI](#)

[All PEG Events!](#)



News From Our Allies in Education

Every month we feature a key news snippet or other information from our allies in EMS Education. If you would like to connect and see how we can collaborate, [contact us!](#)



Site Visitor Workshop to be Held at ACCREDITCON 2020

The CoAEMSP is increasing its site visitor cadre and is seeking Paramedic educators and physicians to become site visitors for CoAEMSP. The training workshop will be conveniently hosted in conjunction with ACCREDITCON, May 27-31, 2020, in Louisville, for those applicants who have been selected to be site visitors. [More details](#)



Free Webinar EMS FINANCE: WHAT DOES EMS REALLY COST?

Who Should Attend: All EMS practitioners who want to understand EMS financial operations. This webinar will help prepare attendees for positions in EMS management. Tuesday, September 23, 2020 at 1 PM CST. [More Details.](#)

[More details](#)



National Registry Reaches All Time High for Nationally Certified EMS Professionals

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians today announced that more than 400,000 EMS professionals are currently nationally certified at the EMR, EMT, AEMT or Paramedic level – the highest amount in the 48 year history of National EMS Certification.

[More details](#)



FAEMSE 2019 Scholarship Recipients Announced

FAEMSE has officially announced the 2019 FAEMSE Foundation Scholarship Winners. Scholarships are awarded twice a year for students wishing to pursue training in Emergency Medical Services. Scholarship awards include \$250 for EMT and \$500 for Paramedic.

[More details](#)



VerifyStudents Announces Drug Screening Enhancements

VerifyStudents by Corporate Screening is proud to offer a convenient, mobile-friendly and paperless drug screening solution. Now, we're pleased to announce several NEW enhancements to our drug screening solution. Customers now have access to student drug screening statuses with the Drug Screening Instance History feature. The feature displays all milestones and timestamped action histories for your drug screening orders.

We're also pleased to offer the availability of approximately 4,500 more drug test collection sites to our network. With thousands of sites across the nation, your students have more options than ever.

[Read Full Article!](#)



Ask the Customer Support Team

Q: As a Teacher, is there a way for me to set up labs in Platinum Planner so that students can sign up for them, much like they do for clinical opportunities? A: Yes! The programmers have recently done an update to Platinum Planner to allow teachers the option to create labs and allow students to sign up for them, rather than automatically add each student in the class to them.

[Read Full Article!](#)

"The best thing about this group is the customer service. All of my questions have been answered within 30 min to an hour. The Help box with frequently asked questions is also nice and I've been able to use it without calling in. Keep up the great work Platinum Group!" - Jenifer Goodson, EMS Instructor, East Central College (MO)



Learn How Platinum Planner is Slaying Appendix G Changes

The Appendix G deadline has passed and the changes from CoAEMSP are in full effect! We want to make sure all educators are organized and prepared. We believe our software is the most equipped to help you be just that!

This prerecorded webinar will dive into how specifically Platinum Planner faces the upcoming Appendix G challenges. It is recommended that reviewers will have already watched a taped webinar on Appendix G by Gordy Kokx that can be found at the [CoA website](#). It is also recommended the participant already has a basic understanding of the function of Platinum Planner or similar software.

If you have **ANY** questions about the upcoming Appendix G changes or how we can help your program be best prepared, contact us. We are here to help!

1 Hour Recorded Platinum Planner/Appendix G Webinar ([Watch Now](#))



Prices Effective July 1, 2020

Our pricing schedule will increase **slightly** in 2020. These increases will not affect training institutions, but students will see a **nominal** change. The increase is being done for several reasons including:

- To continue providing our customers with the **most up-to-date technology and software** programming.
- To continue providing our customers with the **most experienced customer support and programming staff**. To date, our customer support has an **industry-leading 97% satisfaction rate** and the **shortest average call back time** to students and instructors.
- To keep pace with inflation and fair market value. Even after this upcoming increase, **Platinum Educational Group is still under its competitors' prices** while offering more benefits, services, solutions, and overall value.

[Read Full Article!](#)



Does your Program need Student Access Cards or Credit?

By John Zimmer, Client Relations Manager

Many programs still need to gain EMSTesting or Platinum Planner student access. There are three ways students can gain access into our programs:

1. EMS programs can purchase student access credit or cards directly through Platinum Educational Group; then the students reimburse through tuition or lab costs.
2. Students can purchase access cards through their institutions' bookstores.
3. Students can purchase access from our websites directly (EMSTesting, PlatinumPlanner, PlatinumTests) using their own credit/debit cards.

If you need student access for either EMSTesting, PlatinumTests or Platinum Planner, contact **John Zimmer** at 616-490-5395 or email

[EMAIL](#).

If your annual license ends soon, please renew prior to expiration to avoid an interruption in service. If you have questions about your license renewal, contact **John Zimmer** at [EMAIL](#).



Customer Showcase: Gateway Technical College (GTC) – Burlington, WI

Every Month we give a shout out to one of our valued customers! This month we would like to give a shout out to **Gateway Technical College's Paramedic Program**.

GTC's paramedic program is staffed by top notch educators and support staff led by Director, Tim Williamson. We are proud to have them as a valued customer! Recently, GTC experienced a 100% passing of the NREMT certification exam for the entire class!

"I am proud to announce that my last 2018 - 2019 Paramedic Cohort have all passed their NREMT Paramedic Exam on their first attempt! (26/26). As a new EMS Program Director, I cannot express how proud I am. From the first day they started to the end of the program I got to see tremendous growth in each and every one of them. Now let's get excited for the 2019 - 2020 paramedic class!" - Tim Williamson, NRP, NCEE, Program Director/p>

Congrats to all the hard working staff and students at GTC! Keep up the stellar performance!