

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
PREHOSPITAL POLICY

Policy Reference Number 302.1

Effective Date: 12/01/11

Supersedes: 11/01/10

Review Date: 12/01/13

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

PURPOSE

To establish criteria for the local accreditation of Emergency Medical Technician Paramedics in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 22.

AUTHORITY

- A. State of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4.
- B. California Health and Safety code, 1797.192 and 1797.214.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic (Paramedic): An individual who is educated and trained in all elements of prehospital advanced life support; whose scope of practice to provide advanced life support is in accordance with the standards prescribed by Title 22; and who has a valid California State Paramedic License.
- B. Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS Agency): The agency having primary responsibility for administration of emergency medical services in San Luis Obispo County.
- C. Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority): The California agency responsible for licensure and licensure renewal of Paramedics.
- D. License: The document that attests that an individual Paramedic meets the criteria to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) patient care in the state of California. This document is issued by the EMS Authority.
- E. Accreditation: The document that attests that a Paramedic with a current California state license meets the local criteria to provide ALS patient care. This care is

provided under the direction of the EMS Agency Medical Director in accordance with local scope of practice.

POLICY

- A. Changes in state Paramedic regulations shall supersede information in this policy upon codification.
- B. A current and valid California statewide Paramedic license and local accreditation are required to practice as a Paramedic in San Luis Obispo County.
- C. A Paramedic with an expired license is not certified to provide ALS or BLS patient care in the state of California.
- D. A Paramedic with an expired accreditation is not allowed to provide ALS patient care in San Luis Obispo County.
- E. Only Paramedics with a current license in the state of California may represent themselves as a Paramedic. Individuals who are not currently licensed as a Paramedic and represent themselves as such may be subject to criminal penalties.
- F. An individual with an expired Paramedic license shall be required to apply for license renewal through the state EMS Authority prior to applying for local accreditation.
- G. Candidates for initial accreditation shall apply to the EMS Agency and pay the accreditation application fee. This fee is non-refundable.
- H. Candidates whose checks are returned for insufficient funds may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in EMS Agency policy #129 *Fee Collection*.
- I. All information on the EMS Agency accreditation application is subject to verification.
- J. Candidates who supply information found to be fraudulent may be subject to disciplinary action for fraudulent procurement of accreditation as outlined in EMS Agency policies #306 *Determination of eligibility for EMT Certification, Paramedic Accreditation and MICN Authorization* and #309 *EMS Personnel Investigation and Disciplinary Process*.
- K. All initial accreditation candidates must:

1. Possess a current and valid Paramedic license issued by the state of California EMS Authority.
 2. Possess current certification as a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Provider according to the standards for professional rescuers of the American Heart Association, American Red Cross or other course approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
 3. Possess Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider certification issued by the American Heart Association or other course approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
 5. Possess a letter of employment from a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider indicating employment as a Paramedic.
 6. Possess current government- issued photo identification.
 7. Complete an orientation to San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency prehospital policies and procedures that emphasizes the local optional scope of practice.
 8. Complete a supervised field evaluation.
- L. The EMS Agency Medical Director shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the field evaluation. The Medical Director shall recommend further evaluation or training as required, or take other license review action deemed necessary in accordance with Title 22.
- M. If at any time during the accreditation period, through the CQI process the employer or EMS Agency Medical Director determines that a Paramedic needs additional training, observation or testing, the employer, the EMS Agency Medical Director or his or her designee¹, may create a specific and targeted program of remediation based upon the identified need of the Paramedic as outlined in EMS Agency policy #309 *EMS Personnel Investigation and Disciplinary Process*. If there is disagreement between the Paramedic, the employer and/or the EMS Agency Medical Director, the decision of the EMS Agency Medical Director shall prevail. (Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100167 (b)(6))

¹ California Health & Safety Code, Section 1797.202(c) provides that the Medical Director of the local EMS Agency "may assign to administrative staff of the local EMS agency for completion under the supervision of the medical director, any administrative functions of his or her duties which do not require his or her professional judgment as medical director." Therefore, the Medical Director of the EMS Agency may assign his or her duties and authorities under this EMS *Personnel Investigation and Discipline Process Policy* to administrative staff of the EMS Agency

N. Exceptions to any accreditation requirements must be approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.

PROCEDURE

A. A candidate for Paramedic accreditation in San Luis Obispo County shall demonstrate eligibility and shall apply in person to the EMS Agency. Candidates shall complete the EMS Agency application and supply documentation establishing eligibility for accreditation as follows:

1. Current government-issued photo identification.
2. Current and valid Paramedic license issued by the state of California EMS Authority.
3. Proof of current CPR certification.
4. Proof of current ACLS provider certification issued by the American Heart Association or other course approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
5. Proof of orientation to the San Luis Obispo County EMS system policies and procedures that emphasize the local optional scope of practice.
6. A supervised pre-accreditation field evaluation consisting of:
 - a. Ten (10) ALS patient care contacts if the paramedic has been licensed for less than one year.
 - b. Between five (5) and ten (10) ALS patient contact if the Paramedic has a current license and has been licensed for more than one year.
 - c. The field evaluation shall be waived if the candidate successfully completed a Paramedic training program internship in San Luis Obispo County within the previous six (6) months.
7. Provide a letter of employment from a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider indicating employment as a Paramedic.
8. Pay the established local accreditation fee; this fee is not refundable.

B. Accreditation shall be for a maximum of two (2) years, or such time as specified in the current state regulations.

1. The effective date of accreditation shall be the date the candidate meets all local requirements.
2. The accreditation shall expire on the same date as:
 - a. the Paramedic license issued by the California EMS Authority, or
 - b. the Paramedic is no longer employed as a Paramedic by a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider, or
 - c. the Paramedic does not meet accreditation requirements.