

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY  
PREHOSPITAL POLICY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PARAMEDIC REACCREDITATION

PURPOSE

To establish criteria for the local reaccreditation 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. All information on the EMS Agency accreditation application is subject to verification.
- H. Candidates who supply information found to be fraudulent may be subject to disciplinary action for fraudulent procurement of accreditation as outlined in EMS Agency policy #309 *EMS Personnel Investigation and Disciplinary Process*.
- I. Candidates whose checks are returned for insufficient funds may be subject to disciplinary action for as outlined in EMS Agency policy #129 *Fee Collection*.
- J. Reaccreditation candidates are not required to complete a supervised field evaluation provided that they work as a Paramedic in San Luis Obispo County for a minimum of 72 hours per quarter of a year as verified by their employer. Reaccreditation candidates who work less than 72 hours shall be required to

successfully complete a review with an FTO and obtain approval from the medical director.

K. All reaccreditation candidates returning to San Luis Obispo County following an absence of one year or more are required to:

1. Successfully complete a supervised pre-accreditation field evaluation as stipulated in policy procedures.
2. Pay a non-refundable initial accreditation fee.

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. As a condition of continued accreditation, a candidate for reaccreditation must:

1. Have a current Paramedic license issued by the state of California EMS Authority.
2. Provide evidence of 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. Successfully complete a San Luis Obispo County Advanced Protocol Review Course during the preceding two-year accreditation period.
4. Completion of a minimum of two (2) intubations every six months (8 during the two year accreditation period). The two intubation requirements may be met through documentation of successful intubations during patient care, cadaver practice, or documentation of completing manikin intubations under the observation of an FTO or other EMS Agency approved evaluator.
5. Be employed as a Paramedic by a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider.
6. Attend a minimum of six (6) Base Hospital meetings at a San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital during the preceding two-year accreditation period.

7. May be required to successfully pass competency-based written or skills examinations if the EMS Agency makes additions to the local scope of practice.
  8. Shall attend and pass all mandated training meetings as may be required from time to time.
- N. 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 designee<sup>1</sup>, 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) )
- O. Exceptions to any accreditation requirements must be approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.

## PROCEDURE

- A. A candidate for Paramedic reaccreditation in San Luis Obispo County must demonstrate eligibility to the EMS Agency. Candidates shall complete the EMS Agency application and supply documentation establishing eligibility for accreditation as follows:
1. Current and valid Paramedic license issued by the California EMS Authority.
  2. Proof of current CPR certification.
  3. Proof of successful completion of San Luis Obispo County Advanced Protocol Review course during the preceding two-year accreditation period.

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<sup>1</sup> 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

4. Proof of completion of a minimum of two (2) intubations every six months (8 during the two year accreditation period). The two intubation requirements may be met through documentation of successful intubations during patient care, cadaver practice, or documentation of completing manikin intubations under the observation of an FTO or other EMS Agency approved evaluator.
  5. A letter of employment from a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider indicating employment as a Paramedic.
  6. An affidavit attesting to attendance at six (6) Base Hospital meetings in the preceding two-year accreditation period.
- B. Candidates shall leave sufficient time to reaccredit. The EMS Agency requires up to fourteen (14) calendar days to process applications.
- C. 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 by a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider, or
    - c. the Paramedic does not meet accreditation requirements.