

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
PREHOSPITAL POLICY

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SUBJECT: MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

PURPOSE

To establish criteria for the local authorization of Mobile Intensive Care Nurses.

AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 2, Section 1797.56; Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 1797.175; Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 1797.210; and Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 1797.213(a).

DEFINITIONS

- A. Base Hospital: A hospital in San Luis Obispo County that is designated by contract with the EMS Agency to provide Advanced Life Support directions/orders to Paramedics.
- B. Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS Agency): The agency having primary responsibility for administration of emergency medical services in San Luis Obispo County.
- C. Field Training Officer (FTO): A Paramedic designated by the EMS Agency to provide training to prehospital personnel and MICNs.
- D. A process and document that attests that a registered nurse meets the local criteria and has been approved as an MICN.
- E. Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN): A currently licensed Registered Nurse in the State of California who has been authorized by the EMS Agency to facilitate communications between Base Hospital physicians and Paramedics in the prehospital setting.

POLICY

- A. All initial authorization candidates must:
1. California Registered Nurse license
 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 (ACLS) provider certification issued by the American Heart Association or other course approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
 4. Provide a letter of employment from a San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital indicating current employment in their Emergency Department and a minimum of one year experience in Emergency Department nursing.
 5. Complete the EMS Agency Initial Authorization course and pass the written examination with a minimum score of 80%. This test must be taken at the conclusion of the MICN authorization course and must be taken prior to the start of proctored radio calls and field observation time.
 6. Complete an orientation to Base Hospital radio operation techniques and hardware provided by the Paramedic Liaison Nurse at the candidate's Base Hospital.
 7. Complete a minimum of fifteen (15) Paramedic radio calls proctored by authorized MICNs. A minimum of ten (10) calls must be ALS. A record of these proctored calls will be provided to the EMS Agency, including: date, time, and nature of the case (e.g., major trauma, syncope, chest pain). Each recorded call will be signed by the candidate and the proctoring MICN.
 8. Complete ten (10) hours of field observation time accompanying an FTO as follows: six (6) hours with an ALS Ambulance and four (4) hours with a non-transporting ALS agency. The supervising FTO will complete and sign the MICN Field Orientation Checklist. The candidate may elect to tour the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/Med-Com of San Luis Obispo County in lieu of the four-hour field observation time with a non-transporting ALS agency. The candidate will provide documentation to the EMS Agency of this tour.
- B. A current and valid California Registered Nurse license and local authorization are required to practice as an MICN in San Luis Obispo County.
- C. Only MICNs with a current authorization may represent themselves as an MICN. Individuals who are not currently authorized as an MICN and represent themselves as such may be subject to discipline as outlined in EMS Agency *Policy 309: EMS Personnel Investigation and Disciplinary Process*.

- D. Candidates for initial authorization or reauthorization shall apply to the EMS Agency in person, by mail, fax or E-mail, and pay the authorization application fee. This fee is non-refundable.
- E. Candidates whose checks are returned for insufficient funds may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in *EMS Agency Policy 129 Fee Collection*.
- F. All information on the EMS Agency application is subject to verification.
- G. Candidates who supply information found to be fraudulent shall be subject to the disciplinary process outlined in *Policy 309: EMS Personnel Investigation and Disciplinary Process*.
- H. As a condition of continued authorization, a candidate for reauthorization must:
 - 1. Attend at a minimum six (6) San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital meetings during each 12-month period preceding reauthorization.
 - 2. Complete the EMS Agency MICN reauthorization course and written examination with a minimum passing score of 80%, or completion of the didactic portion of the EMS Agency Advanced Protocol Review course and MICN written examination with a minimum passing score of 80%
 - 3. Shall attend and pass all mandated training meetings as may be required from time to time.
 - 4. Successfully pass competency-based written examinations if the EMS Agency makes changes to the local scope of practice.
- I. In order to be eligible for reauthorization after a lapse in authorization, the following criteria must be met:
 - 1. An individual whose authorization has lapse of less than six (6) months shall comply with the criteria in Policy Section H.
 - 2. An individual whose authorization has a lapse of six (6) months but less than twelve (12) months: shall comply with the criteria in Policy Section H. and five (5) hours of field observation time accompanying an FTO on an ALS Ambulance.
 - 3. An individual whose authorization has a lapse of twelve (12) month but less than twenty-four (24) months shall comply with the criteria in Policy Section H. and ten (10) hours of field observation time accompanying an FTO on an ALS Ambulance.
 - 4. An individual whose authorization has a lapse of greater than twenty-four (24) months shall complete the initial authorization process.

- J. The MICN Course instructor shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the testing and evaluation process and recommend to the EMS Agency Medical Director further evaluation or training, as required.
- K. Exceptions to any authorization requirements must be approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
- L. If at any time during the authorization period, through the CQI process the employer or EMS Agency Medical Director determines that a MICN 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 MICN as outlined in EMS Agency policy #309 *EMS Personnel Investigation and Disciplinary Process*. If there is disagreement between the MICN, the employer and/or the EMS Agency Medical Director, the decision of the EMS Agency Medical Director shall prevail.
- M. Authorization shall be for a maximum of two years:
 - 1. The effective date of authorization shall be the date the candidate meets all local requirements as demonstrated to the EMS Agency.
 - 2. The authorization shall expire:
 - a. two years from the completion date of the MICN authorization or reauthorization course or
 - b. on the date the MICN no longer meets authorization requirements.
- N. Currently authorized MICNs returning to a Base Hospital Emergency Room after an absence greater than 3 months shall receive an update from the Paramedic Liaison Nurse reviewing radio usage and any changes to EMSA policies, procedures, or protocols.

PROCEDURE

- A. A candidate for MICN authorization in San Luis Obispo county shall complete the EMS Agency application and supply documentation establishing eligibility for authorization as follows:
 - 1. Current and valid California Registered Nurse license.
 - 2. Proof of current CPR certification.

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

3. Proof of current ACLS.
 4. Letter of employment from a San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital confirming current employment in their Emergency Department and a minimum of one year experience in Emergency Department nursing.
 5. Proof of MICN authorization course completion.
 6. Completed MICN Field Orientation Checklist, including EOC/Med-Com visit documentation if applicable.
 7. Documentation of proctored radio calls.
 8. Pay the established local authorization fee; this fee is not refundable.
- B. A candidate for MICN reauthorization in San Luis Obispo county shall complete the EMS Agency application and supply documentation establishing eligibility for reauthorization as follows:
1. Current and valid California Registered Nurse license
 2. Proof of current CPR certification issued by the American Heart Association (Healthcare Provider), American Red Cross (Professional Rescuer) or EMS Agency-approved equivalent
 3. Proof of current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider certification issued by the American Heart Association
 4. Letter of employment from a San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital confirming current employment in their Emergency Department and a minimum of one year experience in Emergency Department nursing.
 5. Proof of MICN Reauthorization course or Advanced Protocol Review course completion.
 6. An affidavit attesting to attendance at twelve (12) Base Hospital meetings in the preceding two-year authorization period.
 7. Pay the established local authorization fee; this fee is not refundable.
- C. Candidates shall leave sufficient time to reauthorize. The San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency requires up to fourteen (14) calendar days to process applications.