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. 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 (SLO EMSA Policy 341).

B. Change in Employment Status Notification: A written notification from the employer of any change in job function, for any reason, resulting in employee no longer acting in the capacity of Paramedic for the agency, e.g. leave of absence, medical, disciplinary, or no longer employed by agency.

C. Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS Agency): The agency having primary responsibility for administration of emergency medical services in San Luis Obispo County.
D. Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority): The California agency responsible for licensure and licensure renewal of Paramedics.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. Reinstatement: The process whereby a Paramedic is restored to active accreditation during his/her current accreditation cycle following a leave of absence.

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 current and valid 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 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 #301 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 #102 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 per year as verified by their employer. Reaccreditation candidates who work less than 72 hours per quarter per year shall
be required to:

1. Successfully complete a review with a Field Training Officer
2. Obtain approval from the Medical Director.

K. 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 and SLO EMS Agency Policy #301 EMS
Personnel Investigation and Disciplinary Process.

L. As a condition of continued accreditation, a candidate for reaccreditation must meet
all requirements listed under reaccreditation procedures Section A.

M. A Paramedic’s accreditation is considered lapsed when:

1. Not currently employed in San Luis Obispo County,
2. EMS Agency has received notification of change in job function from the
   employer,
3. Failure to maintain California Paramedic License, or
4. Failure to meet San Luis Obispo County reaccreditation requirements.

N. Based on the CQI process, the employer or EMS Agency Medical Director may
determine that a Paramedic warrants additional training, observation or testing. The
employer, the EMS Agency Medical Director (or his or her designee\(^1\)), may create a specific and targeted program of remediation based upon the identified need of the Paramedic as outlined in EMS Agency policy #301 *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. Reaccreditation

Candidates 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. 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. Proof of successful completion of San Luis Obispo County Advanced Protocol Review course during the preceding two-year accreditation period.

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. The EMS Agency shall review intubation completion forms submitted by the employer for compliance.

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\(^1\) 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.
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. The EMS Agency shall review Base Hospital meeting attendance rosters for compliance.

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 trainings as required.

B. Accreditation Reinstatement

1. Accreditation lapse for failure to meet reaccreditation requirements, for reasons other than a change in employment status (written notification from employer), shall result in suspension of accreditation until such time requirements have been met.

2. The employer shall submit a written request for employee reinstatement of accreditation to the EMS Agency for consideration.

3. An extension for lapsed accreditation requested by an employer shall not exceed 180 days from the expiration date of the impacted accreditation period.

4. Lapses greater than 90 days shall require the candidate to complete a policy and skills review as determined by the EMS Agency Medical Director before reinstatement.

5. A Paramedic’s reaccreditation requirements may be prorated for a period not to exceed 180 days. The prorated relief may include a reduction in the number of required intubations and base station meetings (reference table on page 7). All remaining requirements of reaccreditation outlined in reaccreditation procedures Section A shall remain in effect.

6. An extension request beyond 180 days, but not greater than one (1) year in total shall be submitted in writing by the employer to the EMS Agency. Additional reinstatement requirements shall be established at that time.
7. All reaccreditation candidates returning to San Luis Obispo County following an absence of one year or more are required to:

   a. Successfully complete a supervised pre-accreditation field evaluation as stipulated in policy 341 *Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Accreditation*, Procedure A.6

   b. Pay a non-refundable initial accreditation fee.

C. Candidates shall leave sufficient time to reaccredit. The EMS Agency requires up to fourteen (14) calendar days to process applications.

D. 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.
### Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Reaccreditation

#### Accreditation Reinstatement Requirements Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Lapsed</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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| 0 – 90 days lapsed   | - Written request from employer to EMS Agency requesting reinstatement  
                       | - Reaccreditation requirements related to intubations and base station meeting attendance may be reduced on a pro-rata basis with EMS Agency approval |
| 91 – 180 days lapsed | - Written request from employer to EMS Agency requesting reinstatement  
                       | - Reaccreditation requirements related to intubations and base station meeting attendance may be reduced on a pro-rata basis with EMS Agency approval  
                       | - Successful completion of policy and skills review as directed by EMS Agency Medical Director |
| 181 days – 12 months | - Employer shall send EMS Agency written request for an extension exceeding 180 days  
                       | - Any additional reinstatement requirements to be established upon approval by EMS Agency |
| Over 12 months lapsed| - Successful completion of supervised pre-accreditation field evaluation as stipulated in EMSA Policy 341 Procedure A.6  
                       | - Pay current non-refundable initial accreditation fee |