

PREHOSPITAL POLICY

Policy Reference No: 302
Effective Date: 3/1/97
Supersedes: 3/1/94

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

I. PURPOSE:

To establish criteria for the local accreditation of Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics in accordance with Title 22.

II. AUTHORITY:

State of California Administrative Code, Title 22, Social Security, Division 9, Prehospital Emergency Medical Services.

III. DEFINITIONS:

A. "Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (paramedic)" - An individual who has completed both an approved training program and the certification process as prescribed by local and State regulations.

County Health Officer

Date

Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

Date

Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

Date

- B. “Emergency Medical Services Agency” - The EMS Agency is the local coordinating agency for counties in the State of California, including San Luis Obispo. EMS Agencies are the local accrediting authority for paramedics.
- C. “Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority)” - The EMS Authority is the State of California agency responsible for issuing paramedic licenses.
- 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 currently licensed paramedic 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.

IV. ACCREDITATION 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. An paramedic with an expired license is not certified to provide ALS or BLS patient care in the State of California.
- D. An paramedic with an expired accreditation is not allowed to provide ALS patient care in San Luis Obispo County.
- E. Only paramedics currently licensed 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 certification shall be required to relicense through the State EMS Authority prior to applying for local accreditation.
- G. The paramedic accreditation candidates shall demonstrate eligibility for accreditation to the EMS Agency.
- H. Candidates shall apply to the EMS Agency and pay the accreditation application fee. This fee is not refundable.
- I. Accreditation shall be for a maximum of two 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 date the State EMS Authority license expires and/or the paramedic is no longer employed by a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider.
- J. Candidates whose checks are returned for insufficient funds may be subject to the license review process for the fraudulent procurement of their accreditation. Other fees, as allowed by law, may also be assessed.
- K. All information on the EMS Agency accreditation application is subject to verification.
- L. Candidates who supply information found to be fraudulent shall be subject to the license/accreditation review process for fraudulent procurement of their accreditation.
- M. All initial accreditation candidates are required to successfully pass:
1. An orientation to the San Luis Obispo County EMS system policies and procedures.
 2. The San Luis Obispo county EMS Agency competency-based written examination to test their knowledge of local paramedic optional scope of practice.
 3. A supervised preaccreditation field evaluation consisting of:
 - a) Ten (10) ALS patient 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 months.
- N. Reaccreditation candidates are not required to take the local scope of practice examination provided that they work as an 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 pass the local written scope of practice examination.
- O. All reaccreditation candidates shall be required to attend a minimum of six (6) Base Station meetings at their primary Base Station during the preceding two-year accreditation period.
- P. All reaccreditation candidates returning to the San Luis Obispo system following an absence of one year or more shall be required to successfully complete a supervised preaccreditation field evaluation as stipulated in item "M".
- Q. 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.

- R. All currently accredited paramedics, as a condition of continued accreditation, may be required to successfully pass competency-based written or skills examinations if the EMS Agency makes additions to the local scope of practice.
- S. All currently accredited paramedics, as a condition of continued accreditation, shall attend and pass all mandated training meetings as may be required from time to time.
- T. As a condition of initial and continued accreditation, a candidate must possess current:
 - 1. Paramedic license issued by the State of California EMS Authority.
 - 2. Basic Life Support-CPR certification issued by American Heart Association (Healthcare Provider) or American Red Cross (Professional Rescuer).
 - 3. Advanced Cardiac Life Support provider certification issued by the American Heart Association.
- U. Exceptions to any accreditation requirements must be approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.

V. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- A. To be eligible for San Luis Obispo paramedic accreditation a candidate must:
 - 1. Possess all required documents as listed in the policy.
 - 2. Be currently employed by a San Luis Obispo County ALS provider.
 - 3. Demonstrate eligibility to the EMS Agency by applying for accreditation.

VI. PROCEDURE:

- A. Candidates for initial accreditation in San Luis Obispo must apply in person to the EMS Agency.
- B. Rec accreditation candidates may apply by mail.
- C. Candidates shall leave sufficient time to reaccredit. The San Luis Obispo EMS Agency requires up to fourteen calendar days to process applications.