

POLICY #341: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

I. PURPOSE

- A. To establish criteria as defined by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the local accreditation of emergency medical technician paramedics (paramedics) in the County of San Luis Obispo (SLO).

II. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all current California state licensed paramedics employed by approved County of SLO advanced life support (ALS) providers, wishing to provide ALS patient care in the County of SLO.

III. POLICY

- A. Changes in state paramedic regulations will supersede information in this policy upon codification.
- B. A current and valid California paramedic license and local accreditation are required to practice as a paramedic in the County of SLO.
- C. A paramedic with an expired license may not provide ALS or basic life support, patient care in the state of California.
- D. A paramedic with an expired accreditation may not provide ALS patient care in the County of SLO.
- E. Only paramedics with a current license in the state of California may represent themselves as a paramedic. Individuals not currently licensed as a paramedic who represent themselves as such may be subject to criminal penalties.
- F. An individual with an expired paramedic license will be required to apply for license renewal through the state Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority prior to applying for local accreditation.
- G. Candidates for initial accreditation must apply to the County of SLO Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS Agency) and pay the non-refundable accreditation application fee.
- H. Candidates whose checks return for insufficient funds may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in EMS Agency Policy #101: Fee Collection.
- I. All information on the accreditation application is subject to verification. 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 #300: Investigation and Disciplinary Process.

- J. The EMS Agency Medical Director will evaluate any candidate who fails to complete the field evaluation. The Medical Director may recommend further evaluation or training as required or take other license review action deemed necessary in accordance with Title 22.
- K. Once accredited and based on the continuous quality improvement process, the employer or EMS Agency Medical Director may determine that a paramedic needs additional training, observation, or testing. The employer, the EMS Agency Medical Director or his/her designee, may create a specific and targeted program of remediation based upon the identified need of the paramedic. If there is disagreement between the paramedic, the employer and/or the EMS Agency Medical Director, the decision of the EMS Agency Medical Director will prevail.
- L. If the individual fails to complete this targeted program of remediation the EMS Agency Medical Director may suspend or revoke the accreditation for a minimum of one (1) year and up to two (2) years.
- M. As a condition of continued accreditation, individuals must attend and pass all mandated trainings as required by the EMS Agency.
- N. Candidates must have sufficient time to accredit. The EMS Agency may require up to thirty (30) calendar days to process a complete application. If a request is made to expedite a completed application within 72 hours of the request, a rush fee will apply.
- O. It is the responsibility of the accredited paramedic to notify the EMS Agency within 7 days of any arrest or change in their eligibility status. Failure to report such actions may result in disciplinary action.
- P. The EMS Agency Medical Director must approve exceptions to any accreditation requirements.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Candidates must complete the EMS Agency Paramedic Application for County Accreditation – Attachment A 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.
 - 3. Possess current certification as a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Provider according to the standards for professional rescuers of the American Heart Association, or other course approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
 - 4. Proof of current ACLS provider certification issued by the American Heart Association or other course approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
 - 5. Paramedic Field Evaluation Completion Form – Attachment B, consisting of:

- a. Orientation to the County of SLO EMS system policies, procedures, and protocols that emphasize the local optional scope of practice.
 - b. Ten (10) ALS patient care contacts if the paramedic has been licensed for less than one year, or
 - c. Between five (5) and ten (10) ALS patient contacts if the paramedic has a current license and has been licensed for more than one year.
 - d. Successfully pass the Accreditation Test with a score of at least 80 percent.
 - e. The field evaluation will be waived if the candidate successfully completed a paramedic training program internship in the County of SLO within the previous six (6) months (refer to Policy #340 for more information).
6. Provide a letter of employment from a County of SLO ALS provider indicating employment as a paramedic.
 7. Pay the established local non-refundable accreditation fee.
- B. Accreditation will be for a maximum of two (2) years, or such time as specified in the current state regulations.
1. The effective date of accreditation will be the date the candidate meets all local requirements.
 2. The accreditation will expire on the same date as:
 - a. The paramedic license issued by the state of California, or
 - b. The paramedic is no longer employed as a paramedic by a County of SLO ALS provider, or
 - c. The paramedic does not meet accreditation requirements.

V. AUTHORITY

- State of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4
- California Health and Safety code, Division 2.5, Chapters 3, 4, and 7

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Paramedic Application for County Accreditation
- B. Paramedic Field Evaluation Completion Form