

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 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 SLO.
- C. A paramedic with an expired license may not provide ALS or basic life support (BLS), patient care in the State of California.
- D. A paramedic with an expired accreditation may not provide ALS patient care in 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 disciplinary action and 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 SLO Emergency Medical Services Agency (SLOEMSA) 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. Each ALS provider shall have a Paramedic Liaison that will be responsible for the coordination of the application and accreditation process for each of the ALS provider's employees.

- J. All information on the SLOEMSA 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 per Title 22 1798.200 (c)(1).
- K. The SLOEMSA Medical Director will evaluate any candidate who fails to complete the field evaluation. The SLOEMSA Medical Director may recommend further evaluation or training as required or take other license review action deemed necessary.
- L. If the individual fails to complete remediation recommended by the SLOEMSA Medical Director, the accreditation may be denied 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 training as required by SLOEMSA.
- N. Candidates must have sufficient time to accredit. SLOEMSA may require up to thirty (30) calendar days to process a complete application. If a request is made to expedite a completed application within five (5) business days of the request, a rush fee will apply.
 - 1. Candidates need to allow five (5) business days to be approved to begin the accreditation field evaluation. If the anticipated field evaluation start date is within five (5) business days, a rush fee will apply.
- O. Accredited paramedics must follow all laws, regulations, and local policies, procedures, and protocols. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- P. It is the responsibility of the accredited paramedic to notify SLOEMSA within seven (7) days of any arrest or change in their eligibility status. Failure to report such actions may result in disciplinary action.
- Q. The SLOEMSA Medical Director must approve exceptions to any accreditation requirement.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Candidates must complete the SLOEMSA 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 California EMS Authority.
 - 3. Possess current certification as a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Provider according to the American Heart Association guidelines for BLS Healthcare Providers or other course approved by the SLOEMSA Medical Director.
 - 4. Proof of current ACLS provider certification issued by the American Heart Association or other course approved by the SLOEMSA Medical Director.

5. Proof of current PALS provider certification issued by the American Heart Association or other course approved by the SLOEMSA Medical Director.
 6. Paramedic Field Evaluation Completion Form – Attachment B, is due upon completion of accreditation process and includes:
 - a. Orientation to 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. Two (2) attempts will be offered. Consult the SLOEMSA Medical Director for next steps if accredee fails both attempts.
 - e. The field evaluation will be waived if the candidate successfully completed a paramedic training program internship with SLOEMSA within the previous six (6) months (refer to Policy #340, Paramedic Student Internships, for more information).
 7. Provide a letter of employment from a SLO ALS provider indicating employment as a paramedic.
 8. Provide the name of the FTO assigned to lead the accreditation process, and the tentative field evaluation start date.
 9. Pay the established local non-refundable accreditation fee.
- B. Confirmation of application receipt and approval for an accreditation start date will be communicated by email to the applicant and the Paramedic Liaison.
- C. 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 and will be communicated by letter of approval.
 2. The accreditation will expire on the same date as:
 - a. The paramedic license issued by the California EMS Authority, or
 - b. The paramedic is no longer employed as a paramedic by a SLO ALS provider, or
 - c. The paramedic does not meet accreditation requirements.
- D. If the expiration date of the paramedic license is less than two years, the prorated reaccreditation requirements outlined in Policy #342, Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Reaccreditation, will be communicated upon initial accreditation approval.

V. AUTHORITY

- State of California Code of Regulations, Title 22
- California Health and Safety code, Division 2.5

VI. ATTACHMENTS

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

Approvals:

EMS Agency, Administrator	
EMS Agency, Medical Director	