



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Emergency Medical Services Agency

POLICY #233.00

TITLE: **PARAMEDIC LOCAL ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE**

APPROVED: ON-FILE

EMS Administration: James Clark, MICP

ON-FILE

EMS Medical Director: Ajinder Singh, MD CPE

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Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.7, 1797.185 and 1797.214. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100166.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy shall be to provide a mechanism for California licensed Paramedics to become Locally Accredited to Practice with Merced County EMS Agency, as established by the California Health and Safety Code and Code of Regulations.

Policy: A prospective or actual local Advanced Life Support (ALS) Service Provider applicant-employee with a current California Paramedic license shall be immediately accepted so that the applicant may be employed utilizing the State of California Basic Scope of Practice for Paramedics for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. During this thirty (30) day Pre-Accreditation period the Paramedic shall work with an accredited Merced County Paramedic.

Procedure: Eligibility for Paramedic Local Accreditation to Practice - California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100166:

1. Possess current and valid Licensure as a Paramedic in California.
2. Affiliated with and sponsored by a Merced County ALS Service Provider.

Initial Local Accreditation to Practice

1. The initial accreditation candidate shall be issued a Pre-Accreditation card, valid for thirty (30) days, upon payment of the established accreditation fee.
2. Successfully complete an orientation of the local EMS system as prescribed by the Local EMS Agency which shall include policies and procedures, treatment protocols, radio communications, hospital/facility destination policies, and other unique system features. The orientation shall not exceed eight (8) classroom hours, except when completing training in any basic and/or local optional scope of practice for which the paramedic has not been trained and tested. The required orientation shall not include any further testing of the paramedic basic scope of practice.
3. The paramedic accreditation applicant may practice in the basic scope of practice as a second paramedic until s/he is accredited.

4. The paramedic accreditation applicant may only perform the local optional scope of practice while in the presence of the field evaluator who is ultimately responsible for patient care.
5. The Local EMS Agency medical director shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the field evaluation and may recommend further evaluation or training as required to ensure the paramedic is competent. If, after several failed remediation attempts, the medical director has reason to believe that the paramedic's competency to practice is questionable, then the medical director shall notify the Authority.
6. If the paramedic accreditation applicant does not complete accreditation requirements within thirty (30) calendar days, then the applicant may be required to complete a new application and pay a new fee to begin another thirty (30) day period.
7. The Local EMS Agency may limit the number of times that a paramedic applies for initial accreditation to no more than three (3) times per year.
8. The Local EMS Agency shall notify the individual applying for accreditation of the decision whether or not to grant accreditation within thirty (30) calendar days of submission of a complete application.
9. Accreditation to practice shall be continuous as long as licensure is maintained and the paramedic continues to meet local requirements for updates in local policy, procedure, protocol and local optional scope of practice.
10. An application and fee may only be required once for ongoing accreditation. An application and fee can only be required to renew accreditation when an accreditation has lapsed.
11. The Local EMS Agency medical director may suspend or revoke accreditation if the paramedic does not maintain current licensure or meet local accreditation requirements and the following requirements are met:
 - a) The paramedic has been granted due process in accordance with local policies and procedures.
 - b) The local policies and procedures provide a process for appeal or reconsideration.
12. The LEMSA shall submit to the Authority the names and dates of accreditation for those individuals it accredits within twenty (20) working days of accreditation.
13. During an interfacility transfer, a paramedic may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and accredited.
14. During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, a paramedic may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by his/her accrediting Local EMS Agency.

15. A candidate for initial Local Accreditation to Practice may be required to successfully complete a pre-accreditation field evaluation to consist of not more than ten (10) ALS patient contacts. All field evaluations shall be conducted by an approved Merced County Field Training Officer.
 - A. Paramedics who have successfully completed their entire field internship in Merced County within the last six (6) months as evidenced by the ALS Provider’s “Letter of Successful Completion of Field Internship” will not be required to complete the field evaluation.
 - B. Paramedics who have successfully completed their entire field internship in Merced County between six (6) and twelve (12) months ago as evidenced by the ALS Provider’s “Letter of Successful Completion of Field Internship” will be required to complete the field evaluation to consist of five (5) ALS patient contacts.
 - C. Paramedics who have successfully completed their entire field internship in Merced County greater than twelve (12) months ago as evidenced by the ALS Provider’s “Letter of Successful Completion of Field Internship” will be required to complete the field evaluation to consist of ten (10) ALS patient contacts.
 - D. Paramedics who have two (2) or more years of full-time ALS ambulance experience working as a Paramedic in the State of California within the past three (3) years will be required to complete the field evaluation to consist of five (5) ALS patient contacts.
 - E. Paramedics who have less than two (2) years of full-time ALS ambulance experience working as a Paramedic in the State of California will be required to complete the field evaluation to consist of ten (10) ALS patient contacts.
16. Upon successful completion of the accreditation process, a Merced County Paramedic Accreditation Card shall be issued reflecting the remainder of the licensure period.

* If on probation with the California EMS Authority or a local EMS Agency, submit a copy of the stipulation agreement with the initial application.

Westside Healthcare District Ambulance Paramedic Personnel

- A. Must maintain a current California Paramedic License and Mountain-Valley EMS Agency Local Accreditation to Practice.
- B. Use Mountain-Valley EMS Agency field treatment guidelines while providing care in Merced County.
- C. Follow Merced County EMS policies for all MCI operations and patients identified as meeting “STEMI Criteria.”