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## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR) RECERTIFICATION PROCESS**

### **PURPOSE**

To establish a process by which individuals maintain Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency (YEMSA) recertification as an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR).

### **AUTHORITY**

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4, Article 1, §§ 1797.204, 1797.210, 1797.212  
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 1.5, Article 4, § 100026

### **DEFINITION**

**Emergency Medical Responder:** is an individual who is specially trained to provide out-of-hospital care in medical emergencies but have a very limited Scope of Practice with the least amount of comprehensive education, clinical experience or clinical skills. They typically assist in rural regions providing Basic Life Support (BLS) where prehospital health professionals are not available due to limited resources. They have successfully completed an EMR course that meets the requirements of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 1.5, has passed all required tests, and has been certified by a California EMR certifying entity.

### **POLICY**

- I. YEMSA certification is required for all prehospital personnel functioning as an EMR in the YEMSA region.
- II. This policy does not apply to personnel who are certified by another EMR certifying entity (CAL FIRE, California Highway Patrol [CHP], etc.).
- III. No individual shall hold himself or herself out to be an EMR unless that individual is currently certified such by YEMSA or another EMR certifying entity.

### **PROCEDURE**

- I. EMR Recertification Requirements
  - A. In order to recertify, an EMR shall:
    1. Possess a current EMR Certification issued by YEMSA. If your current EMR certification was issued through another County or Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Agency please refer to the EMR Certification Policy.
    2. Successfully complete a twelve (12) hour refresher course from a YEMSA approved EMR training program.
    3. Provide documentation verifying completion of a minimum of twelve (12) hours of approved prehospital Continuing Education (CE) within the two (2) year certification period.
      - a. Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) must be in accordance with the provisions contained in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 11, from one (1) of the following:



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- i. An approved California Prehospital CE Provider.
  - ii. An approved Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS)
  - iii. College courses in physical, social or behavioral sciences (e.g., anatomy, physiology, sociology, psychology) – a copy of the official transcript is required.
4. Complete a criminal history background check no longer than sixty (60) days prior to the date the certification application is submitted.
5. Complete an application form that contains this statement: "I hereby certify **under penalty of perjury** that all information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any falsification or omission of material facts may cause forfeiture on my part of all rights to EMR certification in the State of California. I understand all information on this application is subject to verification, and I hereby give my express permission for this certifying entity to contact any person or agency for information related to my role and function as an EMR in the State of California."
6. Submit a completed skills competency verification form. Verification of skills competency shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years for the purpose of applying for recertification.
7. Disclose any certification or licensure action:
  - a. Against an EMR, EMT, Advanced EMT, or EMT-II certificate, or any denial of certification by a California Local EMS Agency, including any active investigations;
  - b. Against a Paramedic license, or any denial of licensure by the California EMS Authority (EMSA), including any active investigations;
  - c. Against any EMS-related certification or license of another state or other issuing entity, including any active investigations; or
  - d. Against any health-related license.
8. Pay the established recertification fees, which are non-refundable and non-transferable and provide copies of the following:
  - a. A valid United States (U.S.) state-issued driver's license or identification card.
  - b. A current State EMR certification card as indicated in (A.1.) of this policy.
  - c. A copy of a current and valid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification card which is taught to the curriculum standards of the 2015 American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers CPR/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program, or equivalent level.
  - d. A copy of the completed skills competency verification form.
  - e. A copy of completion certificate of either:
    - i. Twelve (12) hours of CEH's, or
    - ii. Twelve (12) hour refresher course.
9. It is the responsibility of the EMR to have current/valid certifications on file at all times with YEMSA. This means if a certification expires during the



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EMR licensed period it is the EMR's responsibility to submit current copy to YEMSA. This includes: California Driver's License, CPR, and EMR certifications.

10. Any application received within thirty (30) days of certification expiration will be assessed a late fee.

- B. Upon completion of the above, and confirmation that the applicant meets all the criteria specified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, Article 5, an individual shall be certified as an EMR. YEMSA shall issue a wallet-sized EMR certificate card within ten (10) business days which is valid throughout the State of California.
- C. If the EMR recertification requirements are met within six (6) months prior to the current certification expiration date, YEMSA shall make the effective date of recertification the date immediately following the expiration date of the current certificate. The certification will expire two (2) years from the day prior to the effective date.
- D. If the EMR recertification requirements are met greater than (>) six (6) months prior to the expiration date, YEMSA shall make the effective date of recertification the date the individual satisfactorily completes all certification requirements and has applied for recertification. The certification expiration date will be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date.
- E. A YEMSA and/or State of California certified EMR who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and whose certification expires while deployed on active duty, or whose certification expires less than (<) six (6) months from the date they return from active duty deployment, with the Armed Forces of the United States shall have six (6) months from the date they return from active duty deployment to complete the EMR recertification requirements. In order to qualify for this exception, the individual shall submit proof of their membership in the Armed Forces of the United States and documentation of their deployment starting and ending dates. CE credit may be given for documented training that meets the requirements contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 11, while the individual was deployed on active duty. The documentation shall include verification from the individual's Commanding Officer attesting to the training attended.

## II. Recertification of an Expired YEMSA EMR Certification

- A. The following requirements apply to individuals who wish to be eligible for recertification after their YEMSA and/or State of California EMR Certificate has expired:
  - 1. For a lapse of < six (6) months, the individual shall complete the requirements specified in items (A.2) - (A.8) of this policy.
  - 2. For a lapse of six (6) months or more, but < twelve (12) months, the individual shall:
    - a. Complete the requirements specified in items (A.2) - (A.8) of this policy, and
    - b. Complete an additional twelve (12) hours of CE.
  - 3. For a lapse of > twelve (12) months or more, but < twenty-four (24) months, the individual shall



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- a. Complete the requirements specified in items (A.2) - (A.8) of this policy, and
  - b. Complete an additional twenty-four (24) hours of CE, and
  - c. Pass the written and skills certification exams as specified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, §§ 100059, 100059.1
4. For a lapse of > twenty-four (24) months the individual shall meet the requirements of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, § 100079, subdivisions (a) and (b).
- B. For individuals who meet the requirements of (II.A.1), (II.A.2), or (II.A.3) of this policy, YEMSA shall make the effective date of recertification the day the certificate is issued. The certification expiration date will be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date. For individuals who meet the requirements of (II.A.4) of this policy, YEMSA shall make the certification effective and expiration dates consistent with EMR Initial Certification Process subdivisions (D) and (E).
- C. Upon completion of the above, and confirmation that the applicant meets all the criteria specified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, Articles 4 or 5, an individual shall be certified as an EMR. YEMSA shall issue a wallet-sized EMR certificate card within ten (10) business days which is valid throughout the State of California.
- III. Denial, Suspension or Revocation of a YEMSA EMR and/or State of California Certificate
- A. YEMSA EMR and/or State of California certification may be denied, suspended, or revoked for any act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of an EMR and is evidence of a threat to the public health and safety, per the Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 7, § 1798.200.
- IV. Application Processing
- A. A completed and signed application and all required supporting documentation must be submitted to YEMSA prior to processing. Incomplete applications will not be processed.
  - B. Incomplete applications will be maintained by YEMSA for sixty (60) days awaiting required supporting documentation. All applications not completed within sixty (60) days will be destroyed.
  - C. YEMSA will process completed applications within ten (10) business days.