



## ***EMS Special Memorandum - #22-001***

Date: January 5, 2022

To: Mendocino/ Sonoma County ALS Provider Agencies

From: Bryan Cleaver  
Regional EMS Administrator

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Regional EMS Medical Director

**Re: Expedited Accreditation Processes**

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**Intent:** This EMS Special Memo intends to provide the process for the expedited temporary approval of experienced California-licensed paramedics to practice within Coastal Valleys EMS Agency (CVEMSA) jurisdiction. This Special Memo describes the process for ALS Provider Agencies to submit orientation programs for EMS Agency approval and outlines the minimum requirements for program approval.

This Special Memo also describes the process for waiving ALS Field Evaluations for new paramedics if completion of the accreditation applicant's field internship was with the ALS Provider employer and immediately preceded accreditation application.

**Background:** CVEMSA recognizes the current staffing crisis across the spectrum of healthcare providers includes prehospital providers. Due to the projections of an impending worsening of this already critical problem, CVEMSA is taking action to reduce the time and process needed to approve eligible paramedics for independent practice.

**Expedited Emergency Accreditation will allow experienced paramedics to begin independent duty without a field evaluation.**

- Paramedics must hold a valid accreditation in another Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) system and have at least one year experience in their accredited LEMSA to qualify for expedited orientation.
- Paramedics must be in good standing with home LEMSA with no active clinical investigations or current performance improvement plans.

**Provider agency eligibility:** Provider Agencies intending to implement this process must submit their training/orientation program to CVEMSA for approval. Provider agency programs must include the following:

- 1) Provider orientation must include 8 hours of didactic instruction covering the following topics:
  - Safety Briefing- review of OSHA requirements for high visibility vests on roadways, staging guidelines, and COVID-19 Policies
  - Overview of CVEMSA Protocols and medication dosing. (Controlled substance Policy)
  - Extensive review of Point of Entry Plan and Base Hospital Guidelines.
  - Overview of Emergency Communications Center and radio systems.
  - Insure competency with all provider agency data systems related to dispatch.
  - Overview of CAM plan with hands on CAM simulation.
  - Provide understanding of system partner agencies. (ALS vs BLS capabilities)
  - Insure EPCR program competency and CVEMSA requirements for documentation.
  - Provide hospital entry codes and contact info list to include base hospital, Communications Center and supervisory personnel.
  - Ambulance/apparatus orientation and equipment familiarization.
  
- 2) Provider orientation must include 12 hours of ambulance observation/system orientation. There are no patient contact minimum requirements; this field time is intended to provide orientation to the local area.

Provider Agencies seeking orientation program approval must submit program materials electronically to CVEMSA Credentialing Program Manager James Salvante at [james.salvante@sonoma-county.org](mailto:james.salvante@sonoma-county.org) for expedited review and approval.

**Accreditation Process:**

- Applicants must complete the interim accreditation application process within the CVEMSA License Management System.
- If the applicant meets minimum qualifications *and* completes an approved expedited orientation process, the interim accredited paramedic will be eligible for independent duty without completion of a CVEMSA field evaluation for the term of interim accreditation.
- Provider agencies must submit verification to CVEMSA that the interim accredited paramedic has successfully completed Provider's CVEMSA-approved expedited orientation process prior to deploying the paramedic as an independent-duty provider. Verifications must be sent to [coastalvalleysemsagency@sonoma-county.org](mailto:coastalvalleysemsagency@sonoma-county.org).

**Quality Improvement Monitoring:**

Paramedics working under the expedited accreditation process must have 100% chart audit completed by their provider agency. Any policy or protocol deviations must be reported to CVEMSA along with any mitigation efforts undertaken to correct identified

issues. Ultimately the EMS Agency is relying on strong oversight of paramedics by their ALS Provider Agency to ensure patient safety.

**Waiver of ALS Field Evaluation for local interns**

CVEMSA will waive ALS Field Evaluations “5-calls” for qualified paramedic accreditation applicants under the following circumstances:

- Accreditation applicants must have completed their internship at the employing ALS Provider Agency within the previous 90 days.
- The Preceptor/Evaluator can document 5 ALS contacts during the final phase of the accreditation applicant’s internship that were managed at the same level of “safe beginner” expected of a successful accreditation candidate.

CVEMSA appreciates the extremely difficult staffing challenges faced by many (if not all) of our EMS system partners. We hope the reduction in time from hire to deployment may be reduced through these changes. We welcome your feedback and any suggestions for safe improvement of our credentialing practices.