

Paramedic Accreditation

I. PURPOSE

- A. To establish requirements and process for the accreditation of paramedics within the LEMSA jurisdiction.

II. INTERIM ACCREDITATION

- A. The following requirements must be met to obtain interim paramedic accreditation in the Local EMS Agency jurisdiction.
 - 1. Complete the EMS Agency's electronic application form, including submission of a current and valid California paramedic license, government issued identification and payment of the established non-refundable application fee.
 - 2. Provide proof of employment with an authorized paramedic service provider within the LEMSA jurisdiction (Service Affiliation through the LEMSA License Management System).
- B. After meeting the requirements in section II (A) the LEMSA will issue an interim accreditation authorization that will expire on the last day of the month no less than 90 days from date of issue.
- C. Interim accredited paramedics may practice under the supervision of a LEMSA approved Evaluator/Preceptor while completing the LEMSA ALS Field Evaluation.

III. INITIAL ACCREDITATION

- A. Interim accredited paramedics must complete the following within the term of interim accreditation to receive a full accreditation:
 - 1. Successfully complete the pre-accreditation system orientation including:
 - a. Base Hospital/medical control orientation through the local base hospital.
 - b. EMS communications/dispatch orientation provided by the employer or EMS Communications Center.
 - c. 5 ALS patient contacts meeting LEMSA criteria, performed under the supervision of a LEMSA approved evaluator. Contacts shall be documented on the LEMSA form and approved by a designated LEMSA EMS Coordinator under the direction of the LEMSA medical director.
 - d. Successful completion of the LEMSA ALS Update class.
 - 2. After steps III A, 1(a) through 1(c) have been completed, and proof of completion submitted to the LEMSA, the LEMSA may authorize the interim accredited paramedic to work independently. Authorization will be in writing to the paramedic's employer.
 - 3. Upon proof of completion of all accreditation requirements above, validated by submission of an Initial Accreditation Application in the LEMSA License Management System, the EMS Agency shall review the application and if satisfactory issue a local paramedic accreditation which shall be valid for a period consistent with and not to exceed the period for which their current California paramedic license is valid.
 - 4. Applicants must complete the accreditation application and field evaluation process outlined above prior to the expiration of their Interim Accreditation Authorization.
 - 5. Failure to complete the local accreditation requirements within the term of Interim Accreditation Authorization shall constitute an abandoned application. Individuals with abandoned applications may repeat the application process if desired.

IV. MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION

- A. Maintaining continuous accreditation as a Paramedic shall be contingent upon:
 - 1. Submission of the EMS Agency's paramedic accreditation electronic renewal form for the purpose of updating information and verifying license status, completion of required training and current service affiliation within 30 days prior to the expiration of current paramedic license.
 - 2. Continuous employment with an approved ALS provider in the LEMSA region.
 - a. An employment lapse greater than 90 days requires reaccreditation.
 - 3. Possession of a current and valid California paramedic license.
 - 4. Completion of the ALS update course within 24 months prior to submission of electronic renewal form.
 - 5. Upon receipt and review of an electronic renewal form indicating the paramedic continues to meet accreditation requirements, the LEMSA shall issue an accreditation card with a renewal date concurrent with applicant's California paramedic license.
 - 6. Paramedics failing to maintain the requirements specified above are not authorized to provide paramedic level care under LEMSA medical control.

V. DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

- A. Local accreditation requirements are created for the purpose of ensuring the EMS Medical Director can establish and maintain medical control over the care delivered within the EMS system. Local accreditation is not a health care certificate or license, but represents the EMS Medical Director's approval for a specific individual to practice within the system at the ALS level.
- B. The requirements within this policy for training and evaluation of paramedics to obtain and maintain continuous accreditation are subject to modification at the sole discretion of the EMS Medical Director.
- C. Temporary modifications to accreditation requirements will be communicated to EMS System partners.

VI. NON-ACCREDITED PRACTICE OF ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

- A. Any paramedic practicing without a valid local accreditation issued by the LEMSA shall be deemed as practicing outside of medical control for the purpose of professional license action.
- B. Any ALS care delivered by non-accredited paramedics shall be considered as care practiced without a physician order, and ineligible for medical billing reimbursement.