

 <p>County of San Diego EMS A Division of San Diego County Fire</p>	COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE	CP-905
	APPROVAL AND REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAMS	
	Date: TBD	Page 1 of 3

I. PURPOSE

To outline the approval and review process of community paramedic programs.

II. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.107, 1798.164, 1798.165, 1830, and 1831. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 5, Sections 100181, 100183, and 100185.

III. DEFINITION(S)

Community Paramedic: A paramedic licensed under Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code (HSC) who has:

1. completed the curriculum for community paramedic training,
2. received certification in one or more of the community paramedic program specialties described in Section 1815 of the HSC, and
3. is accredited to provide community paramedic services by CoSD EMS as a part of an approved community paramedic program.

Community Paramedic Program: A program developed by CoSD EMS and approved by EMSA to provide community paramedic services. This program shall consist of one or more of the program specialties described in Section 1815 of the HSC under medical protocols developed by CoSD EMS and with adherence to the medical protocols established by EMSA. Community paramedic program specialties include:

1. Providing case management services to frequent emergency medical services users in collaboration with, and by providing referral to, existing appropriate community resources.
2. Providing directly observed therapy (DOT) to persons with tuberculosis in collaboration with a public health agency to ensure effective treatment of the tuberculosis and to prevent spread of the disease.

Community Paramedic Provider: An advanced life support (ALS) provider authorized by CoSD EMS to deliver ALS services that has entered into a contract to offer community paramedicine services as described in Section 1815 of the HSC as part of an approved community paramedicine program developed by a LEMSA and approved by the EMSA.

IV. POLICY

San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office
Policy / Procedure / Protocol

- A.** CoSD EMS shall approve, annually review, and facilitate any necessary agreements with one or more community paramedic providers for the delivery of community paramedic services within the LEMSA's jurisdiction. Additionally, CoSD EMS shall approve, annually review, and facilitate agreements with community paramedicine providers that partner with other ALS providers to deliver community paramedic services.
- B.** CoSD EMS may exclude an existing ALS provider from the plan if it determines that the provider's participation will negatively impact patient care. If CoSD EMS elects to exclude an ALS provider, the EMS agency shall do both of the following:
 - 1. Report to EMSA at the time the program is submitted for approval the specific reasons for excluding an ALS provider.
 - 2. Inform the ALS provider of the reasons for exclusion.
- C.** EMSA retains the authority to take any necessary action against a community paramedic provider for failure to meet the requirements at the state or local levels. Such action may be taken in addition to any actions taken by CoSD EMS and may include immediate suspension or revocation.
- D. Community Paramedic Program Approval Process**
 - 1. Interested agencies shall work with CoSD EMS to develop a community paramedic program proposal. This proposal shall contain the materials listed in subsection (B). CoSD EMS is responsible for submitting the final proposal to EMSA and communicating updates to the applying agency.
 - 2. CoSD EMS may assist applying agencies with the following materials included in the written request to EMSA:
 - a. Identification of the community need and recommended solutions.
 - b. All program medical protocols and policies to include, but not limited to, data collection, transport, patient safety, and quality assurance/improvement processes.
 - c. All program service provider approval documentation, including written agreements, if any.
 - d. All relevant documentation outlining policy for collaboration with public health or community resource entities for EMS high utilizer programs.
 - e. Curriculum for program-focused training.
 - 3. EMSA shall review all proposed community paramedic programs. EMSA may impose conditions as part of the approval of such programs that CoSD EMS is required to incorporate to achieve consistency with regulation.
 - 4. Approval of the community paramedic program shall be for twelve (12) months from the date of approval. Renewal of the program shall be completed annually in cooperation with CoSD EMS.
 - 5. Community paramedic providers shall maintain their designation as ALS service providers as outlined in P-801: Designation of Providers of Advanced Life Support Service.
 - 6. A community paramedic pilot program approved under the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Health Workforce Pilot Project No. 173 before January 1, 2020, is authorized to operate until one year after the regulations described in HSC Section 1830 become effective.

E. Community Paramedic Program Review

1. CoSD EMS shall annually conduct a review of community paramedic programs to ensure compliance with all requirements.
2. A program's failure to comply with the provisions of this division may result in denial, probation, suspension, or revocation of approval by CoSD EMS or EMSA.
3. The procedure for notifying a program of non-compliance shall be as follows:
 - a. Within ten (10) days of CoSD EMS finding non-compliance by a community paramedic program, the LEMSA shall provide a written notification of non-compliance to the program, including the specific requirements it failed to meet. The notification shall be sent by certified mail to the director.
 - b. Within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the notification, the program shall submit, in writing and by certified mail, to CoSD EMS one of the following:
 - 1) Evidence of compliance, or
 - 2) A plan to comply within sixty (60) days from the day of receipt of the notification of non-compliance.
 - c. Within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the program's response, or within thirty-five (35) days from the mailing date of the notification of noncompliance, if no response is received from the community paramedic provider, CoSD EMS shall issue a decision letter by certified mail to EMSA and the community paramedic program. The letter shall identify CoSD EMS's decision to take one or more of the following actions:
 - 1) Accept the evidence of compliance provided.
 - 2) Accept the plan for meeting compliance provided.
 - 3) Place the program on probation until further notice.
 - 4) Immediately suspend or revoke the program's status as a community paramedic provider.
4. The decision letter shall also include, but not be limited to, the following information:
 - a. Date of CoSD EMS decision.
 - b. Specific requirements that CoSD EMS found the program failed to meet.
 - c. The probation or suspension effective and ending date, if applicable.
 - d. The terms and conditions of the probation or suspension, if applicable.
 - e. The revocation effective date, if applicable.
5. CoSD EMS shall establish the probation, suspension, or revocation effective dates no sooner than five (5) days after the date the program has been notified.