

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation

POLICY NO: P-305

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DATE: July 1, 2018

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1979.185, 1979.214. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100140, 100165.1

I. PURPOSE

To establish a mechanism for a paramedic to gain and maintain accreditation to practice in San Diego County.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Overview

Accreditation is granted on continuous and provisional basis, depending on whether the paramedic has received orientation and training on County of San Diego EMS (CoSD EMS) policies, procedures, and optional scope of practice.

B. Definitions

Accreditation:

Authorization by the Medical Director of the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to practice paramedic skills within a specific jurisdiction as required by a specific local EMS agency. Accreditation allows local EMS agencies to ensure that paramedics are trained in the optional skills and oriented to the local system.

Continuous Accreditation:

Accreditation shall be continuous as long as licensure is maintained, and the local EMS agency requirements are met in two-year increments.

Reaccreditation:

Reissuing accreditation when there has been a lapse in California State Licensure and/or local EMS agency accreditation

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III. POLICY

A paramedic must be accredited by the CoSD EMS in order to practice as a paramedic while on-duty and employed by a designated ALS agency in San Diego County.

A. In order to be eligible for initial accreditation an individual shall:

1. Possess a current, valid California paramedic license.
2. Complete and submit CoSD LEMSIS Paramedic Application with appropriate fees.
3. Graduate from a CoSD EMS-approved paramedic program within one (1) year of application OR successfully complete an accreditation workshop as prescribed by CoSD EMS. This workshop shall not be less than six (6) hours nor exceed twelve (12) hours in length, and will include:
 - a. Orientation to the local EMS system policies, procedures and protocols, radio communications, hospital/facility destination policies/practices, and other unique system features.
 - b. Training and/or testing in any optional procedures authorized by the CoSD EMS Medical Director in which the individual has not been trained or tested.
 - c. Initial applicants may provide documentation of training or testing from another jurisdiction for all local optional scope items in lieu of the Paramedic Accreditation Workshop.
4. Possess a current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course completion card (Provider or Instructor level).

B. Initial Accreditation

Initial accreditation shall be effective for two years from the last day of the month in which all requirements are completed and the certification was issued

1. Complete and submit CoSD LEMSIS Paramedic Application with appropriate fees.

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2. All accreditation applications must be complete with fees submitted within thirty days. Incomplete applications will be deleted from the CoSD LEMSIS. Fees paid on previously initiated applications within 30 days of scheduled increases will be accepted at the prior fee schedule.
3. A paramedic may apply for initial accreditation no more than three times in a twelve-month period.
4. Applications deemed to be factually incorrect or intentionally misleading shall be denied, accreditation suspended, or other discipline in line with CoSD policy and state guidelines.

C. Provisional Accreditation

1. Paramedics who have completed all requirements for initial accreditation other than the orientation requirement (III.A.3. above) may be accredited on a provisional basis for up to 90 days pending the completion of the San Diego County Accreditation Workshop.
2. Provisional accreditation may be extended only with special authorization from the CoSD EMS Medical Director.
3. Provisional accreditation status shall be allowed only once for a paramedic.
4. Individuals with provisional accreditation must:
 - a. Work solely within the California paramedic basic Scope of Practice.
 - b. Work as a second paramedic, only with a fully accredited (non-provisional) San Diego County paramedic.

D. Continuous accreditation maintenance

1. Accreditation to practice shall be continuous as long as EMS requirements are met. Continuous accreditation requires a bi-annual attestation of licensure and ACLS maintenance in the CoSD LEMSIS license management portal.
2. These requirements are as follows:
 - a. Possession of a valid California paramedic license, **AND**
 - b. Maintenance of current ACLS training (every two years).

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- E. Accreditation Lapse/Reaccreditation**
Individuals who have allowed their paramedic licensure or CoSD accreditation to lapse for greater than one year shall, in addition to the requirements listed above in Section III. D, successfully complete the examination portion of the Accreditation Workshop and pay the established initial accreditation fee to EMS.
- F. EMS shall notify individuals applying for accreditation of the decision to accredit within 30 days of submission of a complete application.**
- G. EMS shall submit the names and dates of initial accreditation of all individuals it accredits to the EMS Authority, within 20 working days of accreditation.**
- H. During an interfacility transfer, an individual who is accredited as a paramedic in one jurisdiction may utilize the paramedic scope of practice in another jurisdiction according to the policies and procedures established by the accrediting local EMS agency (LEMSA).**
- I. During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, a paramedic may utilize their accrediting local EMS agency's scope of practice. The accrediting LEMSAs policies and procedures will define the mutual aid paramedic's practice, rather than the receiving jurisdiction's policies and procedures.**
- J. EMS reserves the right to require periodic mandatory training on new skills, training on new or revised protocols, skills competency evaluation, or remedial training as a condition of continued accreditation.**
- K. EMS reserves the right to deny, suspend, withdraw, or restrict accreditation pending resolution of disciplinary issues, in accordance with state disciplinary regulations and local policy.**