



## PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

POLICY NO: **2012**

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### 2012.1 LOCAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. The following requirements must be met to obtain accreditation as a paramedic within the Coastal Valleys EMS Region:
  1. Provide evidence of possession of a current and valid California paramedic license.
  2. Provide proof of employment with a designated Paramedic service provider (Service Affiliation).
  3. Complete the EMS Agency's electronic application form, which includes the statement that the individual is not precluded from accreditation for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
  4. Pay the EMS Agency local accreditation application fee, which is non-refundable.
  5. Provide evidence of attending the Coastal Valleys EMS ALS Update course within 90 days of application.
  6. Successfully complete the Coastal Valleys EMS written protocol exam.
  7. Successfully complete the pre-accreditation system orientation including:
    - a) Base Hospital/medical control orientation.
    - b) EMS communications/dispatch orientation.
    - c) 5 ALS patient contacts, under the supervision of a CVEMSA approved evaluator meeting CVEMSA criteria.
    - d) Interview with EMS Agency representative to review accreditation process

**NOTE:** CVEMSA approved evaluators may extend the field evaluation process an additional 5 patient contacts, for a total of 10, when deemed appropriate. Nothing in this section requires that shifts of hospital, field orientation, or preceptorship be done on consecutive days.

### 2012.2 LOCAL ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- a. Upon satisfactory completion of items 1-4 as outlined in Section 2012 above, the EMS Agency shall issue an *Interim Accreditation Authorization* which allows the accrediting paramedic to practice under the supervision of a CVEMSA-approved evaluator for the purpose of system orientation, local protocol training and evaluation. *Interim Accreditation*

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*Authorizations* shall be valid for at least 90 days, but may be extended at the discretion of the EMS Agency.

- b. Upon proof of completion of items 5-8 as outlined in Section 2012 above, the EMS Agency shall issue a local Paramedic Accreditation card which shall be valid for a period consistent with and not to exceed the period for which their current California paramedic license is valid.
- c. Applicants must complete the accreditation application and field evaluation process outlined above prior to the expiration of their *Interim Accreditation Authorization*.
- d. 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.

### 2012.3 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. Maintaining continuous employment with an approved ALS provider in the Coastal Valleys EMS region.
    - a. Lapses in employment for no more than 30 days are acceptable for the purpose of this requirement.
  3. Possession of a current and valid California paramedic license at all times.
  4. Completion of the ALS policy update and optional skills review program within 24 months prior to submission of electronic renewal form.
- b. Paramedics failing to maintain the requirements specified above are not authorized to provide paramedic level care under CVEMSA medical control
- c. Upon receipt and review of an electronic renewal form indicating the paramedic continues to meet accreditation requirements, the EMS Agency shall issue an accreditation card with a renewal date concurrent with the paramedic's California paramedic license,

### 2012.4 DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

- a. CVEMSA 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. Such modifications may be required to address identified issues in quality of

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care, availability of resources or any other potentially unforeseen challenge to the delivery of care within the EMS System.

- c. Temporary modifications to accreditation requirements will be communicated with EMS System partner agencies with staff affected by the modifications. The EMS Medical Director will make an effort to inform and obtain feedback from EMS system stakeholder groups prior to the modification that provides a reasonable timeframe for response. Modification without input shall require an explanation with specific examples of the need for urgency in the changes to the accreditation process.
- d. Any temporary modifications to accreditation requirements will be posted on the EMS Agency website no less than 30 days prior to any increase in required training prescribed by the EMS Medical Director.

### **2012.5 NON-ACCREDITED PRACTICE OF ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT**

- a. Any paramedic practicing without a valid local accreditation issued by CVEMSA 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 reimbursement if such legal authorization is required for medical billing or other cost recovery.