

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for issuing Paramedic accreditation in the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

**AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220;  
Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 4 et seq.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Advanced Life Support" or "ALS" means special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care, including but not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, administration of specified medications and other medicinal preparations, and other specified techniques and procedures administered by accredited paramedic personnel in accordance with the standards of medical control established by the medical director of the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency (SJEMSA).
- B. "Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic" or "EMT-P" or "Paramedic" or "Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic" means a person who is educated and trained in all elements of the prehospital advanced life support and has been licensed by the State of California as a paramedic.

**POLICY:**

- I. Initial Accreditation:
  - A. A Paramedic currently licensed by the State of California may begin employment within San Joaquin County once items 1-6 are completed.
    - 1. Possess a valid California paramedic license.
    - 2. Be affiliated with an approved San Joaquin County ALS provider agency.
    - 3. Submit a completed Paramedic Accreditation Application
    - 4. Pay the accreditation fee established by the Board of Supervisors.
    - 5. Successfully pass with a score of 90% or higher an open book examination of the San Joaquin County ALS Policies and Procedures.
    - 6. Submit a copy of a current State of California Driver's License or

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Identification Card or Military Identification Card.

- B. Once items A 1-6 are completed the paramedic may begin working in San Joaquin County as a second paramedic, and may only function within the State Basic Scope of Practice until the accreditation process is completed. The interim paramedic may only perform items listed in the expanded scope of practice while in the presence of an approved field training officer (FTO) who is ultimately responsible for patient care.
- C. Interim status may be maintained for a maximum of **thirty (30) days**. If the applicant does not complete the accreditation process within thirty days, the individual shall re-start the accreditation process. A paramedic may apply for accreditation only three times in a twelve (12) month period.
- D. The accreditation process shall be completed at the interim paramedic's employer and under the direct supervision of a SJEMSA approved FTO. The following items shall be completed:
  - 1. Office of Emergency Services (OES) Region IV Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Field Operations course, and
  - 2. An orientation of the San Joaquin County EMS system not to exceed eight hours; and
  - 3. A supervised pre-accreditation field evaluation of at least three but not more than ten advanced life support patient contacts; and
  - 4. Training and skill competency verification of procedures and medications included in the San Joaquin County paramedic expanded scope of practice.
  - 5. The FTO shall document the orientation/training on the SJEMSA Orientation Verification Form and place the completed form in the employees training file.
- E. The SJEMSA medical director shall evaluate applicants who fail to complete successfully the accreditation process. The SJEMSA medical director may recommend further evaluation or training as required to ensure the paramedic is competent. After several failed remediation attempts the SJEMSA medical director may refer the paramedic to the California EMS Authority for an evaluation of competency.
- F. Accreditation shall expire on the same date as the applicant's State of California paramedic license.

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II. Continuous Accreditation:

- A. Paramedics shall complete the following to maintain continuous accreditation:
1. Maintain a current paramedic license.
  2. Apply for continuous accreditation prior to expiration.
  3. Submit within ten (10) days of receipt a legible copy of their renewed Paramedic license.
  4. Submit a copy of a current State of California Driver's License or Identification Card or Military Identification Card.
  5. Completes mandatory training in SJEMSA policy, procedure, protocol or expanded scope of practice and continues to meet the requirements of the Quality Improvement Program (QIP).
- B. If through the QIP the employer or SJEMSA medical director determines that a paramedic needs additional training, observation or testing, the employer, or the SJEMSA medical director may create a specific and targeted program of remediation based upon the identified need of the paramedic. If there is disagreement between the employer and the SJEMSA medical director, the decision of the SJEMSA medical director shall prevail.
- C. Lapsed Accreditation: In order for an individual whose accreditation has lapsed to be eligible for renewal, the following applies:
1. For a lapse of less than thirty (30) days; pay the accreditation fee, complete the accreditation application and submit a copy of their new license.
  2. For a lapse of more than thirty (30) days but less than six (6) months; successfully pass with a score of 80% or higher the San Joaquin County ALS Policies and Procedure examination, pay the accreditation fee, complete the accreditation application and submit a copy of their new license.
  3. For a lapse of more than six (6) months the paramedic will have to complete the initial accreditation process, listed in A, B & C.

III. Reciprocity:

San Joaquin County accredited paramedics may utilize the San Joaquin County paramedic scope of practice during an interfacility transfer, mutual aid response or emergency response into another local EMS agency jurisdiction.

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