

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for issuing MICN authorization by the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency (SJEMSA).

**AUTHORITY:** Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.5, 1797.210 and; 1797.220, Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 100169(b) (7).

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. **Agency:** The San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency
- B. **Approved Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Course:** Consists of a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of didactic material focused on prehospital care, a minimum of four (4) hours of skills lab, which should include orientation and practice with radio equipment and simulated radio reports, a minimum of five (5) ALS patient contacts during ride along time on a ALS ambulance in San Joaquin County, completion of five (5) precepted radio calls, and successful completion of the course final examination.
- C. **Initial Certification:** An individual who has completed initial MICN training and has never been authorized by the Agency, an individual who is currently authorized in another county, or an individual who was previously authorized by the Agency but whose authorization has been expired over two years.
- D. **Medical Director:** The San Joaquin County EMS Agency Medical Director.
- E. **Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN):** A registered nurse who is functioning pursuant to Section 2725 of the Business and Professions Code who has been authorized by the Medical Director of the Agency as qualified to issue instructions to advanced life support pre-hospital emergency medical care personnel within the San Joaquin County EMS System according to standardized procedures developed by the Agency.

**POLICY:**

I. **Initial Authorization**

- A. In order to be authorized as an MICN in San Joaquin County, the candidate shall:
  - 1. Be a currently licensed registered nurse, in good standing, in California.
  - 2. Have at least six (6) months experience as a full-time RN in a critical care area (i.e., ER, ICU, CCU) in the past two (2) years. This experience needs to be verified by the prehospital liaison nurse (PLN) at the base hospital, who shall complete verification section of the MICN Application.

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3. Apply to the Agency for authorization within six months of MICN course completion, unless previously authorized as a MICN.
  4. Complete a statement that the individual applying for authorization is not precluded from authorization to practice as an MICN for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
  5. Provide copies of the following:
    - (a) Valid California RN License.
    - (b) Valid MICN course completion from an approved MICN course or copy of current MICN card from another county.
    - (c) Current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification.
    - (d) Course completion certificate for National Incident Management System (NIMS) 700 or HICS/HEICS IV equivalent.
  6. Successfully pass the SJEMSA ALS Protocol Examination with a minimum score of 80%.
  7. Pay an authorization processing fee established by the Board of Supervisors.
- B. An MICN who has completed the requirements of I. A. 1 – 6 may work as an interim MICN, for an approved San Joaquin County Base Hospital pending completion of the authorization process, as-long-as the individual is working under the direct supervision of a San Joaquin County EMS Authorized MICN.
- C. Interim status may be maintained for a maximum of **sixty (60) days**. If the applicant does not complete the authorization process within sixty (60) days, the individual shall re-start the authorization process. An RN may apply for authorization only three times in a twelve (12) month period.
- D. The authorization process shall be completed at the interim MICN's employer and under the direct supervision of the PLN. The following items must be completed:
1. An orientation of the San Joaquin County EMS system not to exceed eight hours, which includes at a minimum: use of base hospital specific radio systems, EMSsystem, BLS/ALS Treatment Protocols, MCI policies and procedures, and disaster management.; and
  2. Successfully complete a supervised pre-authorization evaluation to consist of no less than five (5) actual or simulated ALS base contacts.
  3. Demonstrate knowledge of skills and medications which are part of the San Joaquin County Paramedic expanded scope of practice.
  4. The PLN shall document the orientation/training on the Agency Orientation Verification Form (Appendix A) and place the completed form in the

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employees training file.

- E. The Agency shall notify individuals applying for authorization of the decision to authorize within thirty (30) days of submission of a complete application packet.
- F. The Medical Director shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the evaluation or the ALS examination or demonstrate knowledge of the expanded scope of practice. The Medical Director will recommend further evaluation or training as required or take other license review action deemed necessary in accordance with the provisions of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 6.

**II. Re-Authorization:**

- A. In order to be eligible for re-authorization in San Joaquin County an individual shall:
  - 1. Apply for MICN re-authorization thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of their current MICN Authorization;
  - 2. Pay the reauthorization processing fee established by the Board of Supervisors.
  - 3. Provide copies of the following:
    - (a) Current State of California Licensure as a registered nurse;
    - (b) Current State of California Driver's License or Identification Card;
    - (c) Current ACLS certification;
    - (d) Course completion certificate for NIMS 700 or HICS/HEICS IV equivalent (all currently authorized MICN's are required to complete this requirement prior to January 1, 2008).
  - 4. The following requirements must be completed every two (2) years and documented on MICN Continuing Education Form, Appendix B:
    - (a) Twelve (12) hours of formal education relating specifically to ALS pre-hospital medicine, which may include:
      - i. Participation in organized San Joaquin County field care audits,
      - ii. Up to eight (8) hours of observation time on a San Joaquin County ALS ambulance.
      - iii. Formal classes directly related to prehospital care and/or emergency nursing.
  - 5. Successfully complete mandatory training sessions as specified by the EMS Agency. These sessions shall include training and testing on new or changing local EMS policies and procedures, and/or other topics pertinent to prehospital care.

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- B. If through the Quality Improvement Program (QIP) the employer or Medical Director determines that an MICN needs additional training, observation or testing, the employer, or the Medical Director may create a specific and targeted program of remediation based upon the identified need of the MICN. If there is disagreement between the employer and the Medical Director, the decision of the Medical Director shall prevail.
- A. Lapsed Authorization: In order for an individual whose authorization has lapsed to be eligible for renewal, the following applies:
1. For a lapse of less than thirty (30) days, the MICN shall meet the requirements listed in II. A. 1 – 5.
  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 Agency Advanced Life Support Treatment Protocol examination, and shall meet the requirements listed in II. A. 1 – 5.
  3. For a lapse of more than six (6) months but less than twenty-four (24) months, the RN will have to complete the following:
    - (a) Meet the requirements listed in II. A. 1 – 5.
    - (b) Successfully pass with a score of 80% or higher the Agency Advanced Life Support Treatment Protocol examination.
    - (c) Complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of observation time on a San Joaquin County ALS ambulance.
  4. MICN's who have allowed their authorization to expire beyond twenty-four (24) months shall be required to complete the initial authorization requirements listed in I. A. 1 – 5.