

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

**AUTHORITY:** Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.5, 1797.210 and; 1797.220, &1798 et seq. Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 100169(b) (7).

**POLICY:**

I. Initial Authorization

- A. In order to be authorized as an MICN in San Joaquin County, the candidate shall:
1. Submit a completed MICN application.
  2. Be a currently licensed registered nurse, in good standing, in California.
  3. 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.
  4. Apply for authorization within six months of MICN course completion, unless previously authorized as a MICN.
  5. Submit copies of the following:
    - (a) Valid California RN License.
    - (b) Valid state identification card (i.e., driver's license) or valid federal identification (i.e., military identification).
    - (c) Valid MICN course completion from an approved MICN course or copy of current MICN card from another county.
    - (d) Current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification.
    - (e) Course completion certificate for National Incident Management System (NIMS) 700 or HICS/HEICS IV equivalent.
    - (f) Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for the Professional Rescuer or Healthcare Provider, issued from the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or programs approved by the EMS Agency.
  6. Successfully pass, with a score of 80% or higher, a closed book examination of San Joaquin County Policies.
  7. Pay the application fee established by the Board of Supervisors. All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

---

Effective: July 1, 2010  
Supersedes: January 1, 2010

Page 1 of 4

Approved: Signature on File  
Medical Director

Signature on File  
EMS Administrator

- B. An MICN who has completed the requirements of I. A. 1 – 7 may work as an interim MICN, for an approved San Joaquin County Base Hospital pending completion of the authorization process. The individual shall be 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 (3) times in a twelve (12) month period. Note: At the discretion of the EMS Agency, this time frame may be extended upon receipt of a written request from the applicant outlining extenuating circumstances.
- 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, EMS system, 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 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 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 EMS Agency Medical Director shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the authorization process. The Medical Director will recommend further evaluation or training as required or take other action deemed necessary.

## II. Re-Authorization

- A. In order to be eligible for re-authorization in San Joaquin County an individual shall:
  - 1. Submit a completed MICN re-authorization thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of their current MICN Authorization.
  - 2. Submit copies of the following:
    - (a) Current State of California Licensure as a registered nurse
    - (b) Valid state identification card (i.e., driver's license) or valid federal identification (i.e., military identification).
    - (c) Current ACLS certification.

---

Effective: July 1, 2010  
Supersedes: January 1, 2010

Page 2 of 4

Approved: Signature on File  
Medical Director

Signature on File  
EMS Administrator

- (d) Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for the Professional Rescuer or Healthcare Provider, issued from the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or programs approved by the EMS Agency.
3. 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, or
    - ii. Up to four (4) hours of observation time on a San Joaquin County ALS ambulance.
    - iii. EMS approved continuing education that is directly related to prehospital care (Note ACLS and PALS may not be used to fulfill this requirement).
  4. 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.
  5. Complete a policy and skills review (PSR), within six (6) months of expiration.
  6. Successfully pass with a score of 80% or higher with a closed book examination of the San Joaquin County Policies which will be administered at the end of the PSR. (Refer to the Testing Procedures section of this policy for information on scores of below 80 %).
- B. If through the Quality Improvement Program (QIP), the employer or EMS Agency Medical Director determines that an MICN needs additional training, observation or testing, the employer, or the EMS Agency 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.

**III Lapsed Authorization:**

- A. 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 – 6.
  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 EMS Agency Policy examination, and shall meet the requirements listed in II A. 1 – 6.
  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:

---

Effective: July 1, 2010  
Supersedes: January 1, 2010

Page 3 of 4

Approved: Signature on File  
Medical Director

Signature on File  
EMS Administrator

- (a) Meet the requirements listed in II. A. 1 – 6.
  - (b) Successfully pass, with a score of 80% or higher, a closed book examination of San Joaquin County Policies.
  - (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.

IV Testing Procedures:

- A. An individual will be allowed to take the Authorization/Policy examination a maximum of three (3) times:
1. First Attempt: During initial MICN course or PSR course.
  2. Second Attempt: May be scheduled after a one (1) week waiting period from the initial examination;
  3. Third Attempt: At least four (4) hours of remedial training shall be completed through the MICN's employer relating to the San Joaquin County EMS Policies, if employed at the base hospital. MICN's that are not employed at the base hospital will have to attend remedial training at the EMS Agency. Base hospital employees shall submit written documentation from their employer of such training prior to scheduling a third attempt for testing.
  4. For continuous authorization the will be required to attend remedial training conducted by the SJCEMSA until such time the MICN passes the examination. If the MICN's authorization lapses during this time, the MICN must meet the requirements in §III. Additionally, after three (3) failed attempts the EMS Agency Medical Director may suspend or revoke the MICN's authorization, until such time that the MICN passes the examination.