

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to specify advanced life support (ALS) skills requiring additional training and the requirements for ALS service providers shall adhere to in ensuring accredited paramedic personnel demonstrate competency in specified infrequently used skills.

**AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.3, 1797.214, 1797.220, & 1798 et seq.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Accredited Paramedic" means a paramedic that has completed the requirements of EMS Policy No. 2540, Paramedic Accreditation, and is authorized by the SJCEMSA to perform advanced life support (ALS) within San Joaquin County.
- B. "Infrequently Used Skills" means those ALS procedures that have been identified by the SJCEMSA Medical Director through the Quality Improvement (QI) process which are performed on an infrequent basis requiring additional training or qualifications to maintain knowledge and competency as a precedent for practice in the San Joaquin County EMS System.
- C. "SJCEMSA" means the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, which is the designated local EMS agency for San Joaquin County.

**POLICY:**

I. ALS Service Provider Responsibilities:

- A. ALS service providers shall conduct demonstration of competency in infrequently utilized skills in a training environment using medical mannequins designed for that specific skill or procedure for each accredited paramedic.
- B. ALS service providers are required to develop a process that affords all paramedic personnel the opportunity to demonstrate competency at the required intervals.
- C. ALS service providers are required to submit to SJCEMSA thirty (30) days in advance a schedule of dates, times, and locations for infrequently used skill training demonstration of competency for ALS personnel. ALS service providers shall provide the SJCEMSA medical director and staff with access to observe infrequent used skills training and demonstrations of competency.

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Medical Director

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EMS Administrator

- D. ALS service providers and paramedic shall adhere to the performance standards specified in SJCEMSA policy and protocols when training and practicing or verifying competency of an infrequently used skill.
- E. ALS service providers shall maintain written records tracking each individual paramedic employee's training records in an auditable format using a spreadsheet or other SJCEMSA approved format. Regardless of the record keeping format, ALS service providers are required to utilize the SJCEMSA performance criteria when verifying skills.
- F. ALS service providers shall ensure sufficient training equipment and supplies are available to implement the requirements of this policy.
- G. ALS service providers shall make their records available to the SJCEMSA upon request demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this policy.
- H. Infrequently used skills requiring quarterly training and competency demonstration:
  - 1. Adult Endotracheal Intubation.
  - 2. Adult i-Gel Airway.
  - 3. Pediatric i-Gel Airway.
  - 4. MICR: Two Rounds and Transition to Advanced Airway.
  - 5. Synchronized Cardioversion.
  - 6. Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing.
  - 7. Needle Thoracostomy.
  - 8. Percutaneous Needle Cricothyroidotomy.
- I. Upon the recommendation of a majority of the members of the QI Council, the SJCEMSA Medical Director may increase the frequency of the training intervals to bi-monthly.
- J. The SJCEMSA Medical Director reserves his/her right to add or remove skills and increase or decrease the frequency of skills training and competency verification based on his/her professional medical judgment regardless of the recommendations from the QI Council.

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