



San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency



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EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2020-19 (Revised v.4)

DATE: December 15, 2020

TO: All Prehospital Care Providers

FROM: Katherine Shafer, M.D., EMS Medical Director

SUBJ.: Coronavirus (COVID-19) EMS Personnel Applicants (Revised v.4)

The San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SJCEMSA) is implementing provisions to maintain an adequate healthcare workforce per Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-27-20 and N-39-20. Therefore, I am issuing this directive. This memorandum supersedes SJCEMSA Policy Memorandum No. 2020-19, Coronavirus (COVID-19) EMS Personnel Applicants (Revised v.3). This memorandum is effective through the end of the declared COVID-19 pandemic health emergency.

1. For all certification, accreditation, and authorization applications:

Valid state identification cards (i.e., driver's license) that have expired during the current COVID-19 pandemic may be accepted with initial and renewal applications. Prehospital care personnel that would otherwise need to renew their driver's license are hereby required to submit their most current state identification card, even if it is expired, with their application.

2. For EMS Policy No. 2101, EMS Dispatcher Accreditation

Renewal modification: The requirement to complete four (4) hours of ride-along observation with an approved San Joaquin County ALS emergency provider shall be waived during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. For EMS Policy No. 2210, Emergency Medical Responder Certification

Renewal modification: The requirement to submit a completed EMR Skills Competency Verification Form (EMS Form #2210A) shall be waived during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. For EMS Policy No. 2310, Emergency Medical Technician Certification

Initial modification: Applicants that submit a "Provisional NREMT" card will be processed with a six-month "active-restricted" EMT certification. A certification card will not be issued. The certification will need to be verified online at <https://emsverification.emsa.ca.gov/verification/>. Once the applicant completes the

NREMT requirements and the SJCEMSA is notified, the full certification time will be granted and the card will be printed.

Renewal modifications: The requirement to submit a completed EMT Skills Competency Verification Form (EMSA-SCV (01/17)) shall be waived during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. For EMS Policy No. 2540, Paramedic Accreditation

Initial modification: The requirement for initial paramedic accreditation applicants to “attend Paramedic Accreditation Orientation (PAO) course conducted by the EMS Agency,” is suspended until March 31, 2021. Paramedics who apply for initial accreditation during the current public health emergency shall complete initial orientation to SJCEMSA policies and procedures, including the SJCEMSA expanded scope of practice, with their ALS employer.

ALS employers shall submit written verification of completion of the orientation to SJCEMSA. SJCEMSA will approve an initial paramedic accreditation applicant to begin their field evaluation after confirming completion of the orientation. After the paramedic accreditation applicant successfully completes their paramedic accreditation field evaluation SJCEMSA shall issue a temporary accreditation not to exceed six (6) months (less time will be issued if the paramedic license expires prior to six (6) months). Paramedics with temporary accreditation will then be required to complete a SJCEMSA PAO course prior to the expiration of their temporary accreditation to remain accredited in San Joaquin County.

If the applicant has an “Active-RESTRICTED” paramedic license, they are required to obtain an unrestricted “Active” license by successfully completing the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) psychomotor exam within six (6) months of the NREMT allowing testing to maintain their accreditation.

Renewal modification: The requirement to “complete an EMS Agency policy skills review (PSR) course within (6) months of expiration,” is suspended until March 31, 2021.

Paramedics who apply to renew accreditation during the current public health emergency shall be allowed to complete a PSR course through June 30, 2021. SJCEMSA will issue a temporary accreditation card valid through June 30, 2021, to applicants that have not completed the PSR course. Applicants are still required to submit a SJCEMSA Paramedic Accreditation application before their current expiration date.

SJCEMSA has cancelled PSR courses previously scheduled for January 7, 2021, January 26, 2021, February 9, 2021, February 23, 2021, March 10, 2021, and March 31, 2021. SJCEMSA will add PSR courses to meet the increase in demand.

6. For EMS Policy No. 2570, Paramedic Preceptor Authorization

No modification: The requirement that “Paramedic Preceptors shall attend one paramedic preceptor conference each year of the authorization term,” will remain a requirement during the public health emergency.

7. For EMS Policy No. 2571, Paramedic Student Field Internship Authorization

Initial modification: The requirement for initial paramedic student field internship authorization applicants to “attend Paramedic Accreditation Orientation (PAO) course conducted by the EMS Agency,” is modified until March 31, 2021. Paramedic students who apply for initial authorization during the current public health emergency shall complete initial orientation to SJCEMSA policies and procedures, including the SJCEMSA expanded scope of practice, with the ALS provider in which they are assigned for their field internship. Paramedic students are encouraged to stay in contact with their training programs for COVID-19 paramedic training program updates.

8. For EMS Policy No. 2610, Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) Authorization

Initial modification: The requirement to complete eight (8) hours of ride-along observation with an approved San Joaquin County ALS emergency provider shall be suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. After the MICN applicant successfully completes their MICN course, SJCEMSA shall issue a temporary authorization not to exceed six (6) months (less time will be issued if the registered nursing license expires prior to six (6) months). MICNs with temporary authorization will then be required to complete within six months from the end of the COVID-19 pandemic eight (8) hours of ride-along observation with an approved San Joaquin County ALS emergency provider.

Renewal modifications: The requirement to complete twelve (12) hours of approved EMS continuing education, that shall at a minimum include six (6) base hospital case reviews held by San Joaquin General Hospital or SJCEMSA, shall be waived until December 31, 2020. Renewal applications submitted after January 1, 2021, will be required to have completed twelve (12) hours of approved EMS continuing education that, shall at a minimum, include six (6) base hospital case reviews held by San Joaquin General Hospital or SJCEMSA.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Provider Employers

ALS provider employers are required to develop a process to implement a temporary PAO in furtherance of this directive. PAO curriculum is available to the ALS CQI Coordinators through the EMS CQI folder on box.com. The ALS provider shall submit written verification of completion of each orientation course to SJCEMSA.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, you may contact Christine Tualla, EMS Specialist by email at ctualla@sigov.org or by telephone at (209) 468-6818.