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 EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2020-07, Extension of ACLS, CPR Card Expiration Dates and EMT/EMR Skills Competency Verification Forms (Revised) and EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2020-09, Coronavirus (COVID-19) Paramedic Accreditation (Revised). This memorandum is effective through July 31, 2020, unless superseded or rescinded earlier.

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

   EMS Personnel certification, accreditation, and authorization with expiration dates for March 31, 2020, April 30, 2020, May 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020 have been extended to July 31, 2020. Temporary cards will not be issued for this extension. For the purpose of this extension, when a certification, accreditation, or authorization is renewed, by submission of a complete and valid application, the expiration date will revert to the historical month of expiration.

   Professional Rescuer Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification cards that have expired during the current COVID-19 pandemic shall be accepted with initial and renewal applications. Prehospital care personnel that would otherwise need to renew their CPR card are hereby required to submit their most current card, even if it is expired, with their application.

   Valid state identification cards (i.e., driver’s license) that have expired during the current COVID-19 pandemic shall 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 (EMS-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 for six-months. 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 for six months.

Paramedics who apply to renew accreditation during the current public health emergency shall be allowed to complete a PSR course through August 31, 2020. SJCEMSA will issue a temporary accreditation card valid through August 31, 2020, 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 March 31, 2020, April 23, 2020, and May 21, 2020. SJCEMSA will add PSR courses to meet any increase in demand during the summer.

6. 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 July 31, 2020. 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.

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

Initial modification: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification cards that have expired during the current COVID-19 pandemic shall be accepted with initial applications. Applicants that would otherwise need to renew ACLS are required to submit their most current card, even if expired. 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: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification cards that have expired during the current COVID-19 pandemic shall be accepted with initial applications. Applicants that would otherwise need to renew ACLS are required to submit
their most current card, even if expired. 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 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 the orientation to SJCEMSA.

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