

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for issuing and maintaining Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) authorization by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.5, 1797.210, 1797.220, and 1798.207. 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., ED, 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 the verification section of the MICN Application.
 4. Apply for authorization within six months of MICN course completion, unless previously authorized as an MICN.
 5. Submit copies of the following:
 - a. Current and valid State of California Registered Nurse License.
 - b. Current and valid state identification card (i.e., driver's license) or current valid federal identification (i.e., military identification).
 - c. MICN course completion certificate issued by an EMS Agency approved MICN training program.
 - d. Current and valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification.
 - e. Course completion certificates for ICS 100 and ICS 200.
 - f. Current and valid 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

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- 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.
- 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 work under the direct supervision of an MICN authorized by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.
- C. Interim status may be maintained for a maximum of ninety (90) days. If the applicant does not complete the authorization process within ninety (90) days, the individual shall re-start the authorization process. At the discretion of the EMS Agency this time frame may be extended following a written request from the applicant and an explanation as to why the authorization process was not completed during the initial ninety (90) day time period.
- D. The following components of the authorization process shall be completed under the direct supervision of the base hospital coordinator / PLN:
1. Ten (10) actual or simulated ALS base contacts.
 2. Demonstrate knowledge of skills and medications which are part of the San Joaquin County Paramedic scope of practice.
 3. The PLN shall document the orientation/training on the MICN Orientation Verification Form (2610A) and submit it to the EMS Agency.
- E. Individuals applying for authorization shall receive notification of the EMS Agency's decision to approve or deny authorization within thirty (30) days of submission of a complete application packet.
- F. The effective date of initial authorization shall be the day the authorization is issued.
- G. The expiration date for an initial MICN Authorization shall be concurrent with the expiration date of the California Register Nurse License.
- H. The EMS Agency Medical Director shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the authorization process. The Medical Director may recommend further evaluation or training or deny authorization.

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 form thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of their current MICN Authorization.

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2. Submit copies of the following:
 - a. Current and valid State of California Registered Nurse License.
 - b. Current and valid state identification card (i.e., driver's license) or current and valid federal identification (i.e., military identification).
 - c. Current and valid ACLS certification.
 - d. Current and valid 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. Complete the following requirements every two (2) years and document on the MICN Continuing Education Form, 2610B:
 - 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 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. Achieve a minimum of score of 80% on a closed book examination based upon San Joaquin County Policies. This exam is administered at the end of each PSR. (Refer to the Testing Procedures section of this policy for information on scores of below 80 %).
- B. MICN re-authorization shall expire on the same date as the California Register Nurse License.

III. CQI Process

- A. If through the CQI process the employer or EMS Agency Medical Director determines that an MICN needs additional training, observation or testing,

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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.

IV. 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 twenty-four (24) months, requirements listed in II. A. 1 – 6 must be met.
 2. For a lapse of more than twenty-four (24) months, all requirements listed in I. must be met.

V. MICN's shall be responsible for notifying the EMS Agency of his/her proper and current mailing address and shall notify the EMS Agency in writing within thirty (30) calendar days.

VI. Falsification of any of the authorization documents may result in denial of authorization and referral to the appropriate state licensing body for disciplinary action.

VII. Testing:

- A. An applicant is allowed to take the PAO/PSR course examination a maximum of three (3) times.
1. First Attempt: During initial PAO course or PSR course.
 2. Second Attempt: May be scheduled after a one (1) week waiting period from the initial examination.
 3. Third Attempt: May be scheduled following completion of four (4) hours of remedial training pertaining to the San Joaquin County EMS Policies.
 4. If the applicant's authorization lapses because of repeated attempts to pass the examination then the Paragraph III shall apply. Additionally, after three (3) failed attempts the EMS Agency Medical Director may suspend or revoke the applicant's authorization until such time that the applicant passes the examination.
- B. It is a misdemeanor for any person to knowingly and willfully engage in conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert any certification or licensing examination or the administration of an examination, conducted pursuant

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to the Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, including any authorization examination process. Unlawful conduct includes:

1. Conduct that violates the security of the examination material.
 2. Removing from the examination room any examination materials without authorization.
 3. The unauthorized reproduction by any means of any portion of the actual licensing or certification examination.
 4. Aiding by any means the unauthorized reproduction of any portion of the actual licensing or certification examination.
 5. Paying or using professional or paid examination-takers, for the purpose of reconstructing any portion of the licensing or certification examination.
 6. Obtaining or attempting to obtain examination questions or other examination material from examinees or by any other method, except by specific authorization before, during, or after an examination.
 7. Using or purporting to use any examination questions or materials that were improperly removed or taken from any examination for the purpose of instructing or preparing any applicant for examination.
 8. Selling, distributing, buying, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing or certification examination.
 9. Communicating with any other examinee during the administration of a licensing or certification examination.
 10. Copying answers from another examinee or permitting one's answers to be copied by another examinee.
 11. Having in one's possession during the administration of the licensing or certification examination any books, equipment, notes written or printed materials, or data of any kind, other than the examination materials distributed, or otherwise authorized to be in one's possession during the examination.
 12. Impersonating any examinee or having an impersonator take the licensing or certification examination on one's behalf.
- C. The penalties provided for in Health and Safety Code Section 1798.207 are not exclusive remedies and shall not preclude remedies provided pursuant to any other provision of law.
- D. In addition to any other penalties, a person found guilty of violating Health and Safety Code Section 1798.207 shall be liable for the actual damages sustained by the agency administering the examination not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and the costs of litigation.

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