



City and County of San Francisco
London Breed, Mayor

Department of Emergency Management
Emergency Medical Services Agency

Date: August 18, 2023

To: San Francisco Field Providers

From: Dr. John Brown, EMS Agency Medical Director
Andrew Holcomb, EMS Director

DocuSigned by:

John Brown

DD821142FB724F0...

CF3035028B174B6...

Subject: **Community Paramedicine and Triage to Alternate Destination Requirements**

AB1544, known as the Community Paramedic or Triage to Alternate Destination Act of 2020, instituted formidable and extensive requirements directly affecting San Francisco's EMS pilot programs, in which EMS field personnel, EMS Providers, Local EMS Agency (LEMSA), and the state EMS Authority AND in a 1-year timeframe. Nonstop work to ensure compliance with these regulations is ongoing pre and post-implementation of the regulations.

As a local regulatory agency, San Francisco LEMSA's ability to modify or change AB1544 requirements is not an option and is obligated to follow California state law to maintain these programs. Paramedic credentialing and training is required for Community Paramedicine and Triage to Alternate Destination as detailed in the next section. This training and application submission must take place before November 1, 2023. San Francisco LEMSA agrees and recognizes this is an extremely short timeline, continues to advocate for modifications to the law, but currently has no ability to change the 1-year timeline without compromise to critical EMS services.

Frequent Asked Questions:

Am I required to take the training?

Please see the attached graph.

	ALS Local Accreditation (existing credential)	Triage to Alt. Destination Accreditation (Training Required)	Community Paramedic Accreditation (IBSC Required)
All Paramedics	x		
Any Paramedic who transports a patient to an Alternate Destination (Sobering/VA)	x	x	
Community Paramedics	x		x

If I do not work on an ambulance, do I need to take the training?

No. It would be optional but required to work any shifts on an ambulance as a Paramedic or to transport patients to an Alternate Destination (Sobering/VA).

What do I need to do?

San Francisco EMS Agency
333 Valencia, Suite 210 • San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone (628) 217-6000 • sf.gov/ems

The training is under review by the state. Once approved, forthcoming instructions will provide a link to the training site. Applications will be posted once training is available and may be submitted via sf.gov/ems by October 31, 2023.

What is an Alternate Destination?

SFPDH Sobering Center and VA Medical Center are considered Alternate Destinations. While similar to an Alternate Destination, PES is exempt.

Why do we have to take additional training for transports or tasks EMS personnel already do?

Required by AB1544. For most Paramedics, the training will be review.

Why are there 3 Accreditations now?

AB1544 required LEMSA to have three (3) types of Paramedic Accreditations: ALS Local Accreditation (existing), Triage to Alternate Destination Accreditation, and Community Paramedic Accreditation.

Do I receive additional Accreditation Cards?

*******You will be issued a card for EACH Accreditation type.*******

ALS Local Accreditation	Triage to Alt. Destination Accreditation	Community Paramedic Accreditation
NO NEW CARD ISSUED, KEEP YOUR CURRENT CARD	NEW CARD ISSUED AFTER TRAINING COMPLETE	NEW CARD ISSUED AFTER IBSC SUBMISSION

How long is the course?

Estimated completion time is 4-hours, is online, and self-paced. The training may be completed on a smartphone. You will receive Continuing Education.

Are there additional requirements for renewal of Triage to Alternate Destination Accreditation?

Yes. 4-hours of CE are required. The LEMSA course can be used for initial as well as renewal training requirements.

How do I know I have completed all of the requirements?

Accreditation status is posted on <https://emsverification.emsa.ca.gov/Verification/>

What do I do if I am a Community Paramedic?

Please contact your supervisor as an IBSC exam and credential is required to obtain Community Paramedic Accreditation. You cannot work as a Community Paramedic without this credential after October 31, 2023

Are other LEMSAs requiring this?

At the moment, San Francisco is one of the few jurisdictions maintaining these services and likely one of the only to scale.

How do I get involved in EMS advocacy at the state level?

The LEMSA, with key partners, expressed and will continue to advocate at a state level for modifications to better reflect the needs of patients, critical EMS programs, and balanced regulatory requirements.

How do I get more information or provide feedback?

If you have questions, comments, concerns, want to provide additional feedback, or understand more about the impacts of AB1544 please contact LEMSA leadership directly by emailing andrew.holcomb@sfgov.org and john.brown@sfdph.org.