

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Policy Reference No.: 2050
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PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION – Public Comment (Due to Immediate Release) **October 2023**

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for a California licensed Paramedic to become accredited in the City and County of San Francisco under the following Accreditation sub-types:

- A. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Local Accreditation
- B. Community Paramedicine
- C. Triage to Alternate Destination

II. POLICY

- A. Applicants for initial or re-accreditation as a Paramedic in the City and County of San Francisco for all Paramedic Accreditation types must apply to the San Francisco EMS Agency. Applicants must meet all minimum requirements identified in this policy.
- B. No person shall use the ALS Paramedic scope of practice in San Francisco unless they are currently an ALS Local Accredited Paramedic or have completed the requirements to be an ALS Local Accreditation Candidate. No person shall use Community Paramedicine Scope of Practice or Triage to Alternate Destination protocols without obtaining the Accreditation subtypes.
- C. Paramedic applicants with background issues listed under Health & Safety Code, Section 1798.200 in the categories of actions constituting a threat to public safety may be precluded from obtaining a Paramedic accreditation. The Paramedic applicant may be required to submit additional information or participate in an in-person interview for determination of the applicability of Health & Safety Code, Section 1798.200. Denial of accreditation shall be subject to provisions of this policy and *Policy 2070 Certificate / License Discipline Process for Prehospital Personnel*. The EMS Agency Medical Director retains the final decision through his/her medical authority whether to grant or revoke a Paramedic accreditation in San Francisco.

III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ALS LOCAL ACCREDITATION PARAMEDIC APPLICANTS

- A. Submit a completed San Francisco EMS Agency Paramedic Accreditation application along with the required fee. Go to the EMS Agency office or sf.gov/ems
- B. Provide a photocopy of the following:

1. Current picture identification (State driver's license or ID card, valid Passport, valid US military ID card or other government-issued ID).
 2. Current California Paramedic license.
 3. Current Basic Life Support (Healthcare Provider Level) CPR Card from the American Heart Association, American Red Cross or American Safety & Health Institute.
 4. Submit proof or application for Triage to Alternate Destination Accreditation if working on an ambulance or transporting patients to Triage to Alternate Destination Facilities.
- C. Payment of any associated fees

IV. INITIAL ACCREDITATION - ALS LOCAL ACCREDITATION

- A. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III.
- B. Submit photocopies of current certification cards or proof of course completion for the following:
 1. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
 2. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) or Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP).
 3. Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) or Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS).
 4. Incident Command System Training (ICS) 100, 200 and IS 700a, Introduction to National Incident Management System.
 5. Hazmat First Responder Awareness course (FRA) per 29 CFR 1910-120.
- C. Provide verification of successful completion of a San Francisco EMS system orientation given by the employer. The verification form should include any San Francisco EMS approved Optional Scope of Practice protocols
- D. The EMS Agency shall process the accreditation application within 15 days of receiving it. The accreditation applicant may perform the basic Paramedic scope of practice with a second accredited Paramedic until receipt of local accreditation.
- E. The initial accreditation term shall be from the date issued until the applicant's license expires. Upon renewal, accreditation will be concurrent with California Paramedic License.

V. RE-ACCREDITATION - ALS LOCAL ACCREDITATION

- A. Accreditation for practice shall be continuous as long as licensure is maintained and the following requirements are met:
 - 1. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III.
 - 2. Verification of employment as a Paramedic from a permitted San Francisco ambulance provider.
 - 3. Verification from the employer of completion of training on EMS Agency policy and protocols and updates or any other trainings required by the EMS Agency Medical Director that have been issued in the previous 12 months.
 - 4. Submit photocopies of current certification cards for the following:
 - a) Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
 - b) Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) or Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP).

VI. LICENSE OR ACCREDITATION LAPSES - ALS LOCAL ACCREDITATION

- A. Accreditation lapse less than 30 days:
 - 1. Meet the requirements for Re-accreditation in Section V.
- B. Accreditation lapse greater than 30 days, but less than 1 year:
 - 1. Meet the requirements for Re-accreditation in Section V, and
 - 2. Submit written request from employer that the individual to be re-accredited.
- C. Accreditation lapse between 1 and 2 years:
 - 1. Meet the requirements for Re-accreditation in Section V;
 - 2. Submit a written request from an employer for re-accredited; and
 - 3. Successfully pass a supervised skills competency examination provided by the ALS ambulance provider.
- D. Accreditation lapse 2 or more years:
 - 1. Follow Section IV Initial Accreditation.

VII. TRANSFER OF SAN FRANCISCO PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION - ALS LOCAL ACCREDITATION

- A. A Paramedic seeking to transfer employment between San Francisco based ALS providers remains an accredited Paramedic when:
 - 1. Employed and working in the field as a Paramedic for the new employer within 90 days of the date last worked in the field as a Paramedic from the last employer; and
 - 2. The accreditation period is current.

B. The new employer must submit written notification to the EMS Agency at least 2 business days in advance of the Paramedic's new employment start date. The notification must include:

1. Name of the Paramedic and his/her current San Francisco EMT-P accreditation number;
2. Name of the previous employer and date last worked in the field with that employer.
3. Termination date with previous employer.
4. Name of new employer and date of hire.
5. Start date in the field with the new employer.

C. The Paramedic must submit a completed, signed EMS Agency Transfer application to the EMS Agency at least 2 business days in advance of the assignment to the field as a Paramedic with the new San Francisco based ALS Provider. Include from the new employer verification of completed training on San Francisco EMS Agency policy and protocols, including updates or revisions issued within the previous 12 months.

D. Any Paramedic seeking to transfer employment between San Francisco based ALS providers who does not meet the requirements in the section will be considered an Initial Accreditation applicant.

VIII. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TRIAGE TO ALTERNATE DESTINATION ACCREDITATION APPLICANTS

A. A Triage to Alternate Destination Paramedic shall only utilize triage to alternate destination skills when accredited by the San Francisco EMS Agency as a Triage to Alternate Destination Paramedic and employed by an approved San Francisco Triage to Alternate Destination Service Provider.

B. An initial Triage to Alternate Destination Paramedic accreditation shall expire on the last day of the month, two (2) years from the effective date of the initial accreditation or consistent with the expiration date of already existing ALS Local Accreditation.

C. Triage to Alternate Destination accreditation requires renewal every two (2) years or by date as listed on accreditation card.

D. California Paramedic License must be active and unrestricted

E. Payment of any associated fees

E-F. Triage to Alternate Destination Accreditation is required for any Paramedic working on an ambulance or transporting patients to Triage to Alternate Destination Facilities.

Triage to Alternate Destination Accreditation is optional for any Paramedic not assigned to or working on an ambulance.

IX. INITIAL ACCREDITATION – TRIAGE TO ALTERNATE DESTINATION

- A. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III.
- B. Completed Triage to Alternate Destination Application
- C. Triage to Alternate Destination course completion certificate from a San Francisco EMS Agency-approved course

X. RENEWAL ACCREDIATION – TRIAGE TO ALTERNATE DESTINATION

- A. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III.
- B. Completed Triage to Alternate Destination Application
- C. Completion of four (4) hours Triage to Alternate Destination-related Continuing Education (CEs) approved by the San Francisco EMS Agency.

XI. REINSTATEMENT OF ACCREDIATION - TRIAGE TO ALTERNATE DESTINATION

- A. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III
- B. Completed Triage to Alternate Destination Application
- C. If expired twelve (12) months or less, completion of four (4) hours of Triage to Alternated Destination-related CEs approved by the San Francisco EMS Agency
- D. If expired twelve (12) months or more, San Francisco EMS Agency-approved Triage to Alternate Destination course completion certificate within one (1) year of reinstatement application submission date.

XII. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION APPLICANTS

- A. A Community Paramedic shall only utilize Community Paramedicine skills when accredited by the San Francisco EMS Agency as a Community Paramedic and employed by an approved San Francisco Community Paramedic service provider.
- B. An Initial Community Paramedic Accreditation shall expire on the last day of the month, two (2) years from the effective date of the initial accreditation or consistent with the expiration date of the already existing ALS Local Accreditation.
- C. Community Paramedic accreditation requires renewal every two (2) years or by date as listed on accreditation card.
- D. California Paramedic license must be active and unrestricted
- E. Payment of any associated fees

XIII. INITIAL ACCREDIATION – COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC

- A. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III
- B. Completed Community Paramedic Application

- C. Community Paramedic course completion certificate from a San Francisco EMS Agency-approved course
- D. IBSC Community Paramedic certificate within the last two (2) years of the date of application submission.

XIV. RENEWAL ACCREDITATION – COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC

- A. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III
- B. Completed Community Paramedic Application
- C. Completion of eight (8) hours Community Paramedicine-related CEs approved by the San Francisco EMS Agency
- D. Proof of continued active, unrestricted IBSC Community Paramedic certificate

XV. REINSTATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION – COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC

- A. Submission of all general requirements as listed in Section III
- B. Completed Community Paramedic Application
- C. If expired twelve (12) months or less, completion of eight (8) hours community paramedicine-related CEs approved by the San Francisco EMS Agency and proof of active, unrestricted IBSC Community Paramedic certificate
- D. If expired twelve (12) months or more, San Francisco EMS Agency-approved Community Paramedic course completion certificate and proof of passing IBSC Community Paramedic examination within the last two (2) years from the submission date of the reinstatement application

AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.172 et seq., 1797.214, 1797.185 et seq., and 1801-1857.

California Code of Regulations, Sections Title 22, Division 9, Article 1, Section 100142; and Article 6, Sections 100165 & 100166., Article 8, Section 100171; and Article 9, Section 100172.

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 5