

POLICY: 254.00  
TITLE: Paramedic Accreditation

EFFECTIVE: 4/13/17  
REVIEW: 4/2022  
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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## Paramedic Accreditation

### I. AUTHORITY

In accordance with §100165 of the California Code of Regulations, the local EMS agency may accredit a California licensed Paramedic to practice in its jurisdiction.

### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **“Accreditation”** means authorization to practice Paramedic skills in those counties in the region where orientation of the local EMS system has been completed.
- B. **“Agency”** means the Mountain-Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency.
- C. **“Mountain-Valley EMS System”** means the geographic areas within the member counties of the EMS Agency.

### III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism whereby individuals may acquire Paramedic accreditation through the use of high fidelity manikin simulation or under the direction of a Field Evaluator.

### IV. POLICY

- A. The candidate shall possess a valid/current California Paramedic License.
- B. The candidate shall apply to the Agency for accreditation.
- C. The candidate shall complete an orientation of the local EMS system as prescribed by the Agency, which shall not exceed eight (8) classroom hours prior to the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period.
- D. A candidate must pass a CLOSED book written examination with an 80% or better score on the Agency ALS Treatment Protocols, Policies and Procedures prior to the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period.
- E. After successful completion of the local orientation and the CLOSED book exam, the candidate may schedule a two (2) hour block of time with the Agency to complete the required ALS scenario patient contacts via simulation manikin provided by the Agency.

- F. A candidate shall be granted a thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period which begins upon payment of an accreditation fee and completion and submission of an application. At the end of thirty (30) days, if the individual has not successfully completed the Agency orientation process, or met any other pre-accreditation requirements, the individual will no longer be able to function as a paramedic in the Mountain-Valley EMS System. He/she may reapply for accreditation by paying another initial accreditation fee.
- G. A candidate may apply for a thirty (30) day extension by submitting the request in writing to the Agency prior to the expiration of the initial thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period. If the pre-accreditation requirements have not been met within this thirty-day extension, an additional thirty (30) day extension may be requested by submitting the request in writing to the Agency and by paying another initial accreditation fee.
- H. A candidate shall be limited to applying for accreditation up to three (3) times during a twelve-month period.
- J. The Agency's Medical Director shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the Field Evaluation and or patient contact scenarios and may recommend further evaluation or training as required to ensure the Paramedic has competent knowledge of Agency's field treatment protocols.

If a candidate chooses NOT to be evaluated on the high-fidelity manikin scenarios and instead will be the third (3) person on a ground ambulance with a Field Evaluator the candidate may function as a Paramedic during this pre-accreditation period as follows:

- 1. Limiting their scope of practice to the State of California basic scope of practice as a second paramedic under the direction of an approved Field Evaluator until he/she is accredited.
  - 2. May only perform the local optional scope of practice while in the presence of the field evaluator who is ultimately responsible for patient care.
- K. A Paramedic, once accredited by the Agency, shall be considered accredited as long as they:
- 1. Maintain licensure as a Paramedic, by the State of California;
  - 2. Successfully complete any requirements imposed by the Agency Medical Director for an Agency approved Expanded Scope of Practice Class, and Policy Update Class;
  - 3. Meet any requirements of the System-wide CQI program; and
  - 4. Provided verification of compliance with Agency Policy 853.00- Prehospital Training Standards
    - a. An accredited paramedic must notify the Agency, within five (5) business days, of any change in address, telephone or e-mail contact information.
    - b. All accredited paramedics must submit, every two years, an information update sheet, a new photograph (taken by the Agency), and a copy of a newly issued State paramedic license in, order to maintain accreditation.

V. PROCEDURE

A. Prior to the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period the candidate must complete the following:

1. The candidate shall complete an orientation of the local EMS system as prescribed by the Agency, which shall not exceed eight (8) classroom hours.
2. A candidate must pass a CLOSED book written examination with an 80% or better score on the Agency ALS Treatment Protocols, Policies and Procedures.

*Candidates that receive less than 80% will be notified which questions they missed. The candidate will be allowed to retest, taking a closed book exam, until they receive a minimum score of 80%.*

*The candidate may not retest on the same day as the initial exam and must make arrangements with the Agency to reschedule a date and time to retest.*

3. Successfully complete and show competency on five (5) scenario based patient contacts (up to a max of ten (10)). (Please see attached check list which provides critical fails for each scenario)

Complete a "Documentation of Patient Contact interim report" for each of the scenario based patient contacts.

4. If the candidate fails anyone of the 5 ALS patient contact scenarios, he/she may retest that scenario one (1) time. If the candidate fails that scenario the second time he/she may re-schedule a time to return to the agency and retest.

B. A candidate shall be granted a thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period which begins upon payment of an accreditation fee and completion and submission of an application which includes:

1. A copy of a current California Paramedic license;
2. Proof of successful completion of the OES Region IV Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Field Operations Course, within 30 days of the submission of the accreditation application.
3. A signed statement verifying testing in the Paramedic basic scope of practice and any additional drugs or procedures in the expanded scope of practice adopted by the Agency;
4. A copy of a current driver's license or California identification card

C. The following pre-accreditation process shall be completed and all documents submitted within the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period in the following order:

1. The candidate shall demonstrate proof of present employment or a written commitment for employment by an Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa or Stanislaus County designated ALS provider agency.
2. The candidate for initial accreditation shall be required to successfully complete a pre-accreditation field evaluation and/or ALS patient contact via simulation to consist of up to ten (10) ALS responses. *This requirement may be waived or modified at the*

*discretion of the Agency Medical Director. This field evaluation must be continuously supervised at all times by a paramedic, approved by MVEMSA Medical Director or his/her designee, currently accredited with the Agency and has a minimum of three years' experience working as a paramedic on an Emergency 9-1-1 System ambulance within the Region.*

- a. Paramedics who have successfully completed their entire field internship with an ambulance provider within the MVEMSA Region within the last six months will not be required to complete the Pre-Accreditation Field Evaluation.
  - b. A written request by the preceptor must be submitted to the Agency to waive the 10 ALS responses within 30 days of the initial submission of the candidates' application.
- D. Upon successful completion of the pre-accreditation requirements, an accreditation card will be issued.
- E. The Medical Director of the local EMS Agency may suspend or revoke accreditation if the Paramedic does not maintain current licensure or meet local accreditation requirements.
- F. If accreditation is suspended, or revoked, the affected Paramedic shall be entitled to appeal the decision. The process for appeal is outlined in Agency Policy #161.00, Appeals Process.
- G. Disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100165 (i) of the California Code of Regulations.