

Accreditation of EMS Personnel (1010.00)

I.Intent

It is the intent of the Emergency Medical Services Division (Division) to provide a method for medical oversight of all personnel operating within the organized Kern County emergency medical services (EMS) system; under the direction of the Medical Director. The Division further intends to create a method for quality assurance oversight. Medical Control shall be maintained through compliance with these policies and applicable policies listed in sections below.

II.Authority

This policy is administered under the authority of Health and Safety Code Sections 1797.107, 1797.172, 1797.173, 1798, and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Sections 100147 and 100153, and PC11105.3.

California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Chapter 1.5, 2, 4. EMSA Publication #130.

III.General Provisions

EMS personnel shall not provide care within the Kern County EMS system without obtaining local accreditation

- A. Individuals seeking accreditation shall apply to the Division either in-person or through the online portal.
- B. All local Kern County Accreditations require a Live Scan to be completed using the Kern County form.

IV.Public Safety First Aid Optional Skill Accreditation

- A. Individuals who possess a current first aid certification from an approved training provider may be accredited in Kern County upon successful completion of the accreditation requirements.
- B. Individuals must maintain compliance with *Public Safety First Aid Optional Skills Policies and Procedures*.
- C. Individuals wishing to apply for an initial Kern County Public Safety First Aid Optional Skills Accreditation shall:
 - 1. Provide evidence of completion of an approved Public Safety First Aid training program.
 - 2. Submit a completed and signed “All Purpose Certification/Accreditation Form.”
 - 3. Be employed by a public safety agency which has been approved by the Division to provide optional skills. Employment verification shall be provided by the public safety agency.

4. Provide proof of successful training in all optional skills items mandated by the Division
 5. Provide proof of successful training in all optional skill items mandated by the public safety agency and approved by the Division.
 6. Provide proof of CPR and AED training.
 7. Provide a Live Scan using Division approved form.
 8. Provide proof of successful completion of any training mandated by the Division, if applicable.
 9. Provide a copy of government issued photo identification (current state driver's license or identification, federally issued passport, or similar)
 10. Pay the fee established in Ordinance, if applicable.
- D. Accreditation shall be continuous unless the Public Safety First Aid provider separates from employer, First Aid certification lapses or the employer no longer participates in the PSFA.
- E. Local accreditation expiration dates shall coincide with First Aid certification expiration dates.
- F. The Public Safety First Aid Optional Skill provider shall apply for re-accreditation to the Division prior to the expiration of current accreditation
- G. Individuals wishing to apply for reaccreditation of the Kern County Public Safety First Aid Optional Skill accreditation shall:
1. Meet the standards listed above,
 2. Provide proof of successful completion of training and demonstration of skills competency for each approved optional scope of practice items mandated by the Division or the employer and approved by the Division

V. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) California State Certification

Initial Certification – 1st time California EMT:

- A. Application complete and signed
- B. Proof of current NREMT
- C. Live Scan results received and reviewed

Renewal or lapse less than 6 months:

- A. Application complete and signed
- B. California EMT Certification with expiration date of less than 6 months
- C. Continued Education (24 Hours Approved CE)
- D. Skills Competency Form

Reinstatement – lapse greater than 6 months but less than 12 months:

- A. Application complete and signed
- B. California EMT Certification with expiration date of greater than 6 months but less than 12 months.
- C. Continued Education (36 Hours of Approved CE)

D. Skills Competency Form

Reinstatement – lapse greater than 12 months:

- A. Application complete and signed
- B. Continued Education (48 hours of Approved CE)
- C. Skills Competency Form
- D. Proof of current NREMT or current California paramedic license
- E. Live Scan results received and reviewed

VI. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Accreditation

- A. Individuals who possess a current EMT certification from the State of California may be accredited in Kern County upon successful completion of the accreditation requirements.
- B. Individuals must maintain compliance with EMT Provider Policies and Procedures (5001.00) and Emergency Medical Technician Protocols and Procedures (5002.00).
- C. Individuals wishing to apply for an initial Kern County EMT Accreditation shall:
 - 1. Possess a current and valid EMT certification issued by a local EMS agency on behalf of the State of California. Certifications issued by certifying entities other than a local EMS agency shall obtain written verification from the certifying entity of willingness to provide certification oversight throughout remainder of certification cycle.
 - 2. Submit a completed and signed “All Purpose Certification/Accreditation Form.”
 - 3. Be employed by a Division approved Emergency Medical Technician Provider. Employment verification shall be provided by the provider.
 - 4. Proof of successful training in all Optional Scope of Practice items mandated by the Division.
 - 5. Proof of successful training in all Optional Scope of Practice items mandated by the employer and approved by the Division.
 - 6. Provide a Live Scan, if not certified by the Division.
 - 7. Provide proof of CPR and AED training.
 - 8. Provide proof of successful completion of any training mandated by the Division, if applicable.
 - 9. Provide a copy of government issued photo identification (current state driver’s license or identification, federally issued passport, or similar)
 - 10. Pay the fee established in Ordinance, if applicable.
- D. Accreditation shall be continuous unless EMT separates from employer or EMT certification lapses.
- E. Local accreditation expiration dates shall coincide with EMT state certification expiration dates.
- F. The EMT shall apply for re-accreditation by the Division prior to the expiration of current accreditation

- G. Individuals wishing to apply for reaccreditation of the Kern County EMT accreditation shall:
 - 1. Meet the standards listed above,
 - 2. Provide proof of successful completion of training and demonstration of skills competency for each approved optional scope of practice items mandated by the Division or the employer and approved by the Division.

VII. Paramedic Accreditation

- A. Individuals who possess a current and valid paramedic license issued by the State of California may be accredited in Kern County upon successful completion of the accreditation requirements. Accreditation shall allow the paramedic to work within the Kern County scope of practice without a paramedic partner while employed by an approved Kern County provider.
- B. Individuals must maintain compliance with all Division policies, procedures, and protocols.
- C. Individuals wishing to apply for an initial Paramedic Accreditation shall:
 - 1. Present a valid paramedic license issued by the State of California.
 - 2. Submit a completed and signed "All Purpose Certification/Accreditation Form.
 - 3. Provide a Live Scan using Division approved form.
 - 4. Be employed by a Division approved paramedic service provider. Employment verification shall be provided by the provider.
 - 5. Successfully complete a supervised pre-accreditation field evaluation by a recognized Kern County Preceptor consisting of a minimum ten (10) advanced life support contacts.
 - 6. Provide verification of orientation to Kern County EMS policies, procedures, and protocols.
 - 7. Provide proof of BLS healthcare provider CPR.
 - 8. Provide proof of successful completion of training for all Division authorized Optional Scope of Practice items.
 - 9. Successfully pass the Kern County accreditation test with a score of 80% or better.
 - 10. Provide a copy of government issued photo identification (current state driver's license or identification, federally issued passport, or similar)
 - 11. Pay the fee established in Ordinance, if applicable.
- H. Accreditation shall be continuous unless paramedic separates from employer or paramedic certification lapses.
- I. Local accreditation renewal dates shall coincide with paramedic license expiration dates.
- J. If the individual fails to complete all requirements for accreditation outlined in this policy within thirty (30) days of application, the Division will notify the individual and the employer of the denial of accreditation. Provisional extension of up to ninety (90) days may be authorized for good cause by the Division as mutually

agreeable to the individual. Individuals shall not apply for accreditation more than three (3) times per calendar year.

- K. The paramedic shall apply for renewal of accreditation by the Division prior to the expiration of current accreditation.
- L. Individuals wishing to apply for reaccreditation of the Kern County paramedic accreditation shall:
 - 1. Meet standards 1, 2, 3, 6, and 9 listed above,
 - 2. Provide proof of successful completion of training and demonstration of skills competency for each approved optional scope of practice items mandated by the Division or the employer and approved by the Division.
 - 3. Provide proof of successful completion of any Division mandated training (i.e., paramedic update training)
 - 4. Provide copy of the State of California EMT Paramedic Renewal Application, STATEMENT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, and all additional copies requested by the State for renewal with the Authority.
 - 5. Provide proof of Advanced Cardiac Life Support Training.
 - 6. Provide proof of Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Training.
 - 7. Provide proof of Pediatric Advanced Life Support Training.
 - 8. One skills verification form for each year of the accreditation cycle, not to be closer than six (6) months apart.
 - 9. Successfully pass the Kern County accreditation test with a score of 80% or better.
 - 10. If paramedic accreditation is expired, pay the fee established in Ordinance.

VIII. Paramedic Preceptor Accreditation

- A. The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedure for a Kern County accredited paramedic to be considered for paramedic preceptor.
- B. The procedure is the same for all paramedics regardless of whether the paramedic preceptor will be a preceptor of paramedic students or initial accreditations for paramedics in Kern County.
- C. The paramedic preceptor shall be responsible for the training, supervision and evaluation of personnel in Kern County who are preparing for accreditation and paramedic interns. The paramedic preceptor is responsible for ensuring appropriate patient care is provided to every patient encounter in accordance with County Paramedic Protocols, all local policies, and procedures, as well as all appropriate local, and/or State rules and regulations.
- D. In order to be eligible for accreditation as a paramedic preceptor a candidate shall:
 - 1. Present a valid paramedic license issued by the State of California to the County EMS Division.
 - 2. Be a Kern County accredited paramedic for at least two years, and have a minimum of 300 patient contacts.
 - 3. The paramedic's license and accreditation must be in good standing with the County EMS Division and the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority. A paramedic is considered in good standing if:

- a. License status with the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority is either “Active” or “Approved” only.
 - b. The following statuses with the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority are not considered in good standing: “Active-PROBATION”, “Active-PROVISIONAL”, “Active-RESTRICTED”.
 - c. No disciplinary action taken against the paramedic’s accreditation by the County EMS Division within the last two (2) years.
 - d. No mandated remedial training within the last year.
4. Attend a preceptor training class approved by the County EMS Division from one of the paramedic training programs below:
 - a. Bakersfield College Paramedic Training Program.
 - b. University of Antelope Valley Paramedic Training Program.
 5. Successfully complete a written exam on local optional scope of practice and local operational procedures with a passing score of 90 percent.
 - a. If the candidate fails the exam on the first attempt, the candidate will have the option to retake the exam after one (1) week of the initial attempt.
 - b. If the candidate fails the second attempt, the candidate shall wait a period of three (3) months to re-attempt the process for paramedic preceptor accreditation. This means paramedic license and accreditation will be reviewed to determine if the candidate is in good standing as outlined above. The candidate shall attend a second preceptor training class as outlined above, and the candidate shall submit a second letter of recommendation from his or her employer as outlined below.
 - c. The employer of the preceptor candidate will be notified by the Division upon each failed attempt at passing the exam.
 6. Present a letter of recommendation from the candidate’s employer, who must be an approved ALS provider.
- E. Upon successful completion of the above requirements, the paramedic shall be placed on an approved list of paramedic preceptors for the County.
- F. A candidate who fails to complete the process within two (2) attempts shall wait a period of one (1) year prior to being eligible for consideration of paramedic preceptor accreditation. The candidate shall repeat all procedures for consideration as outlined in this policy.
- G. Paramedic preceptor status shall be continuous upon each Kern County accreditation renewal, provided:
1. The candidate continues to pass the written exam on local optional scope and local operational procedures with a passing score of 90 percent.
 2. The candidate attends all required update classes as mandated by the preceptor training class that was attended.
- H. Failure to maintain the requirements set forth in this policy and/or failure to remain in good standing with the EMS Division or the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority will result in immediate removal from the approved preceptor list.

- I. Paramedics that have had their paramedic preceptor status revoked will not be eligible to attempt paramedic preceptor accreditation for a period of two (2) years.

IX. Emergency Medical Dispatcher Accreditation

- A. Individuals who possess a valid NAED card in the current version of the protocol, or course completion record for the basic EMD training program may be accredited in Kern County upon successful completion of the accreditation requirements.
- B. Individuals must maintain compliance with the EMD Policies and Procedures (2001.00).
- C. Individuals wishing to apply for an initial Kern County EMD Accreditation shall:
 1. Possess a current and valid EMD certification issued by National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED)
 2. Submit a completed and signed "All Purpose Certification/Accreditation Form."
 3. Provide a Live Scan using Division approved form.
 4. Proof of completion record verifying 8 hours of protocol training in local EMD policies, procedures, and protocols by EMD authorized instructor dated with issue date of not more than one year.
 5. Copy of the applicant's government issued photo identification (may be current state driver's license or identification, federally issued passport, or similar photo identification).
 6. Skills verification documentation that demonstrates EMD competency signed by EMD preceptor.
 7. Valid CPR card
 8. Pay the fee established in Ordinance, if applicable.
- D. Local accreditation expiration dates shall coincide with NAED certification expiration dates.
- E. The EMD shall apply for reaccreditation by the Division prior to the expiration of current accreditation.
- F. Individuals wishing to apply for reaccreditation of the Kern County EMD accreditation shall meet the standards 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8.

X. Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Accreditation

- A. Individuals who possess a current and valid registered nursing license issued by the State of California may be certified in Kern County upon successful completion of the certification requirements. Certification shall allow the registered nurse to work as an MICN in Kern County.
- B. Individuals must maintain compliance with all Division policies, procedures, and protocols.

- C. Individuals wishing to apply for an initial MICN certification shall:
 1. Present a valid registered nurse license issued by the State of California.
 2. Submit a completed and signed "All Purpose Certification/Accreditation Form."
 3. Provide a Live Scan using Division approved form.
 4. Successfully complete the Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Certification program with an 80% or better.
 5. Successfully complete a supervised pre-certification field evaluation by a recognized Kern County MICN consisting of a minimum of four (4) ALS level communication cases under the supervision of a certified MICN, and completion of 16 hours of paramedic ambulance ride time.
 6. Provide proof of ACLS (Advance Cardiac Life Support)
 7. Provide a copy of government issued photo identification (current state driver's license or identification, federally issued passport, or similar).
 8. Pay the fee established in Ordinance, if applicable
- D. Local certification shall be good for two years from date of completion of certification process.
- E. The Mobile Intensive Care Nurse shall apply for recertification to the Division prior to the expiration of current certification dates.
- F. Individuals wishing to apply for recertification of the Kern County Mobile Intensive Care Nurse shall:
 1. Meet the standards listed above,
 2. Provide proof of successful completion of the Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Recertification program with 80% or higher.

Appendix A- Procedure for Mandatory Passing of Local Exam for Accrediting and Re-accrediting Paramedics

All New and re-accrediting paramedics in Kern County will be required to pass an exam on local policies, procedures, and protocols. The pass rate is 80% to obtain/retain accreditation. If at any point in the process the paramedic accreditation expires, the paramedic will not be allowed to report to duty. Reinstatement of accreditation from expiration or failure to pass the exam after three (3) attempts will be subject to accreditation fee as established in Ordinance. The procedure for paramedic testing is outlined below.

- A. The paramedic will have three (3) attempts at passing the exam. There is no time restriction or waiting period between exam attempts with the exception of remediation.

- B. If the paramedic fails the first two (2) attempts, the paramedic shall be referred to his/her employer for remedial education.
 - 1. The Division will fill out a form citing which local policies, procedures, or protocols were missed on the exam(s).
 - 2. The paramedic will present the form to the employer for assignment of training.
 - 3. Remedial training may be conducted by a Pre-Hospital Continuing Education Provider Program or Division approved preceptor at the discretion of the employer.
 - 4. Training will be focused on the policies, procedures, protocols listed on the Division form.
 - 5. There is no minimum requirement for the number of training hours. Satisfaction of completion of remedial training will be at the discretion of the employer.
 - 6. The paramedic must have the form signed by the trainer to be eligible for the third attempt at the exam.
- C. The paramedic shall present a signed remedial education form to the Division to attempt the exam a third time.
- D. If the paramedic fails the third attempt at the exam, his or her accreditation will be suspended or not renewed.
- E. Reinstatement of accreditation will require completion of a Division sponsored policy, procedure, protocol class. Course completion will require passing of an exam.
- F. If the paramedic fails to complete the course, the paramedic will not be eligible for accreditation for one (1) year following the date of the fourth and final exam.
- G. Reinstatement after the one (1) year time frame will require the paramedic to complete the accreditation process (including ten ALS contacts).

Appendix B- Paramedic Skills Verification Procedure

- A. The policy establishes the policies and procedures for the Paramedic Skills Verification program.
- B. These policies shall apply to all Kern County paramedics and all Kern County ALS providers.
- C. The Division reserves the right to change or update these policies and procedures as deemed necessary in accordance with Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulations Title 22, and Kern County Ordinance.
- D. All Paramedics shall be certified in CPR, PALS, ACLS, and PHTLS.
 - 1. Paramedics shall present copies of their cards at time of re-accreditation.
 - 2. An instructor in PALS, ACLS, and PHTLS may verify a skill during the course if a manipulative station is part of the normal course material.
- E. The following skills require verification:
 - 1. Cricothyrotomy
 - 2. Thoracic Decompression
 - 3. Endotracheal Intubation (if applicable)
 - a. Adult
 - 4. Intraosseous needle placement
- F. Skills that are successfully completed in the field may be used as verification.
- G. The following information must be provided for verification:
 - 1. Run Number
 - 2. Date of Procedure
 - 3. Indications
 - 4. Complications
 - 5. Attempt
- H. The Paramedic must turn in the skills verification sheets at the time of re-accreditation.
- I. Two verifications will be required to be presented at reaccreditation:
 - 1. One verification must be completed within twelve months of accreditation
 - 2. One verification must be completed greater than twelve months after accreditation
 - 3. Verifications must be more than six months apart
- J. Skills may be verified through a refresher course that provides hands-on manipulation. The refresher course must include the following:
 - 1. Review of indications and contraindications
 - 2. Paramedic must be able to physically identify landmarks
 - 3. Paramedic must be able to practice the procedure and have positive feedback indicating success
 - 4. A Division approved device shall be used.

Appendix C- Items needed for accreditation:

- All purpose application
- Completed Live Scan Form
- Driver's license or other form of government issued ID
- Copy of your expiring county card (EMT, Paramedic, MICN, EMD, PSFA)
- Copy of your state card (EMT, Paramedic, RN) or NAEMD,NREMT
- Copy of your CPR
- Copy of other required certifications (ACLS, PALS, PHTLS)
- Copy of CE's (page 2 of the paramedic state application or required amount of original CE's for EMT's)
- Required Fee's (We accept cash, money orders, cashier checks, Visa or MasterCard; please make money order or cashier's check payable to "Kern County EMS")
- Proof of all county training required by the Division.