

Paramedic Accreditation

I. PURPOSE

The policy provides licensed California paramedics accreditation to practice in Contra Costa County and sets forth the prerequisites for accreditation.

II. ACCREDITATION ELIGIBILITY

A. All applicants for paramedic accreditation shall:

1. Possess a current California paramedic license.
2. Complete an American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support for Prehospital Providers (BLS PHP) CPR course that has not exceeded the recommended date for renewal.
3. Be employed as a paramedic with a designated advanced life support (ALS) service provider or the Contra Costa County EMS Agency (LEMSA).
4. Attend a Contra Costa EMS system orientation provided by the LEMSA within six (6) months of applying for accreditation.
5. Pass the LEMSA's paramedic accreditation examination with a score of at least 80%. The results of the examination are valid for six (6) months. Examination attempts are limited to three (3) attempts in any twelve (12) month period.
6. Successfully complete the Contra Costa County EMS Optional Scope Skills Session provided by the provider agency, if applicable.
7. Provide documentation from an ALS employer recommending the applicant for accreditation.
8. Pay the established LEMSA accreditation application fee.
9. Complete an electronic application for paramedic accreditation through Contra Costa County's online license management system.
10. The applicant must disclose whether they have ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in California, or any other state or place, or convicted of any crime punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including entering a plea of no contest, or any conviction which has been set aside pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4 or expunged, or whether they have ever had a certification, accreditation, or professional healing arts license suspended or revoked, or whether they are currently under investigation by any law enforcement, health care or regulatory agency.

III. MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION

- A. Paramedic accreditation to practice shall be continuous if the accredited paramedic meets the following requirements:
1. Continuously possesses a valid California paramedic license.
 2. Maintains continuous employment as a paramedic with an approved Contra Costa ALS service provider or the LEMSA.
 3. Submits a completed electronic application verifying eligibility for continuous accreditation:
 - a. Possesses proof of completion of an AHA BLS PHP CPR course that has not exceeded the recommended date for renewal.



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- b. Possesses proof of completion of an AHA course in ACLS that has not exceeded the recommended date for renewal.
- c. Has met the requirements of the LEMSA's local EMS quality improvement plan and has had the skills identified in the quality improvement plan verified.
- d. Has attended the required annual EMS training on policy and treatment guideline updates.

IV. TRANSFER OF ACCREDITATION

- A. Paramedic accreditation ceases upon termination of employment or when the paramedic no longer meets the eligibility for continuous accreditation.
- B. EMS accreditation is not automatically transferable. Transfer of accreditation is permissible if the paramedic:
 - 1. Submits an application for transfer of accreditation with the new employer's recommendation for continued accreditation to the LEMSA.
 - 2. Meets the eligibility requirements for continuous accreditation under Section III.

