



Santa Cruz County EMS Agency Section 200: Personnel Credentials

Policy 201

Paramedic Accreditation Requirements

Rev: 5/18

I. Purpose

- A. To provide a process for a California State licensed paramedic to work and perform paramedic skills as established by Santa Cruz County EMS Policies and Procedures. This policy revision is less restrictive than previous policy and applies retroactively to all applications received after January 1, 2016.

II. Authority

- A. Title 22, Article 8, Sections 100165- 100166, Health and Safety Code Division 2.5 Section 1798.202

III. Definition

- A. "Accreditation" means authorization by Santa Cruz County EMS Agency to practice as a paramedic for a Santa Cruz County ALS provider under the Santa Cruz County policies and protocols.

IV. Procedure

- A. To be accredited an individual shall:

1. Possess a current California paramedic license.
2. Apply to Santa Cruz County EMS Agency for accreditation within 30 days of being hired by an agency in Santa Cruz County.
3. Pay established accreditation fees if applicable.
4. Successfully complete all phases of the County-approved paramedic accreditation program as outlined in the Santa Cruz County EMS Quality Improvement Plan.
5. Possess all certifications required by the Santa Cruz County EMS Quality Improvement Plan, as well as by the respective paramedic providers in the County.

- B. Review Process

1. The EMS Agency Medical Director shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the field evaluation and may recommend further evaluation or training as required ensuring the paramedic is competent.
2. The EMS Agency shall notify the individual applying for accreditation of the decision whether to grant accreditation within thirty (30) calendar days of submission of a complete application.

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3. Accreditation to practice shall be continuous if licensure is maintained and the paramedic continues to meet all requirements for updates in policy, procedure, protocol and optional scope of practice, and continues to meet requirements of the system-wide CQI program.
4. To maintain continuous accreditation, current paramedic licensure information will be provided to the EMS Agency by the paramedic's employer.
 - a) This must be provided to the EMS Agency prior to the new licensure period to maintain continuous accreditation.
 - b) Failure to provide this information will result in loss of accreditation and ability to work as a paramedic in Santa Cruz County and the lapsed paramedic must re-apply for accreditation.
 - c) It shall be the employer's responsibility to keep current paramedic accreditation cards on file.
5. The EMS Agency Medical Director may suspend or revoke accreditation if the paramedic does not maintain current licensure or meet accreditation requirements.
6. Should an accredited Santa Cruz County paramedic stop working in the County for a period exceeding 180 days, the paramedic provider will evaluate this paramedic's field competency utilizing County-approved evaluation guidelines and provider-approved field evaluators upon this paramedic's return to line duty. The paramedic will be evaluated for his/her general clinical competency and ability to correctly apply Santa Cruz County Protocols and Policies to safely manage patients. The length of this evaluation process will be determined by the provider and will be sufficient to validate this paramedic's BLS and ALS competencies prior to being released to independent duty.
7. In a declared disaster or declared emergency (local, state or federal), an "emergency accreditation" will be considered to permit California licensed paramedics to be granted an emergency accreditation to work as a paramedic in Santa Cruz County. This provision will be invoked at the discretion of the EMS Agency Medical Director and shall at a minimum consist of: notice to the EMS Agency, copy of current California paramedic license in good standing, brief orientation to the Santa Cruz County EMS policies and protocols by the provider. Accreditation under a declared disaster or emergency may be granted for not more than 60 days, after which time an emergency accreditation will expire unless the EMS Agency Medical Director extends the accreditation.

V. Discipline

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- A. Paramedic licensure actions (e.g. immediate suspension) shall be performed according to the provisions of Health and Safety Code 1798.202.
- B. Notification to the EMS Authority shall be made in the manner prescribed by the EMS Authority. If the final action is a recommendation to the EMS Authority for disciplinary action of a Paramedic license, a summary explaining the actions of the Paramedic that pose a threat to the public health and safety pursuant to Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code and all documentary evidence relative to the recommendation shall be forwarded to the EMS Authority.

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