



SAN BENITO COUNTY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

ALVARO GARZA, M.D., M.P.H.
HEALTH OFFICER

KATHRYN FLORES
DIRECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

SAN BENITO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE

Policy No.: 3010

Effective Date: August 2011

Reviewed: August 2011

Approved By: 
EMS Agency Medical Director

I. PURPOSE

To provide a process for a California State licensed paramedic to work and perform paramedic skills as established by San Benito County EMS Policies and Procedures.

II. AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100165 – 100166. EMSA Publication #130 – Paramedic Accreditation Policy.

III. DEFINITION

“Accreditation “means authorization by San Benito County EMS Agency to practice as a Paramedic within San Benito County.

IV. PROCEDURE

To be accredited to work as a Paramedic in San Benito County, an individual shall:

A. Process a current and valid California Paramedic license.

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439 Fourth Street
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- B. Possess a current Basic CPR (BCLS) certification (AHA Healthcare Provider or equivalent).
- C. Possess a current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification.
- D. Possess a current Advanced Pediatric Life Support (PALS) certification –or-Pediatric Education for Prehospital Personnel (PEPP) certification.
- E. Apply to San Benito County EMS Agency for accreditation within 30 days of being hired by an agency in San Benito County; *EMS approval must be received prior to patient contact.*
- F. Pay established accreditation fee if applicable.
- G. Successfully complete an orientation of the San Benito County EMS system which shall include policies and procedures, treatment protocols, radio communications, hospital/facility destination policies, and other unique system features.
- H. Successfully complete training in any local optional scope of practice for which the paramedic has not been trained and tested.
- I. Complete a field evaluation of no more than ten (10) ALS patient contacts and provide proof of successful completion to the EMS Agency within ninety (90) calendar days. The field evaluation shall only be used to determine if the paramedic is knowledgeable to begin functioning under the San Benito County Policies and Procedures. The paramedic accreditation applicant may practice as a second paramedic until s/he is accredited.
- J. The paramedic accreditation applicant may only perform the local optional scope of practice while in the presence of the field evaluator who, in all cases, is ultimately responsible for patient care.
- K. The EMS Agency shall notify the individual applying for accreditation of the decision whether or not to grant accreditation within 90 calendar days of submission of a complete application. The “complete application” includes the provider agency’s written documentation that all accreditation requirements have been successfully met.

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- L. If the paramedic accreditation applicant does not complete accreditation requirements within 90 calendar days, then the applicant may be extended, but not to exceed a total of 120 calendar days, upon the written recommendation of the applicant's Field Training Officer (field evaluator). San Benito County EMS Agency limits the number of times that a paramedic applies for initial accreditation to no more than three times per year.
- M. 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.
- N. Accreditation to practice shall be continuous as long as required licensure and certifications are maintained and the paramedic continues to meet all requirements for updates in policy, procedure, protocol and optional scope of practice and continues to meet the requirements of the system-wide CQI program and is employed by the county paramedic provider.
- O. The EMS Agency Medical Director may suspend or revoke accreditation if the paramedic does not maintain current licensure, required certifications or meet accreditation requirements.
- P. Should an accredited San Benito 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 San Benito 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.
- Q. During an interfacility transfer, a paramedic may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by San Benito County EMS Agency.
- R. During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, a paramedic may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by San Benito County EMS Agency.

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- S. Temporary “Emergency” Accreditation may be granted in situations wherein the contracted ambulance provider has exhausted all efforts to find paramedic coverage for special events or in unusual staffing circumstances.
 - a. “Emergency” Accreditation must be approved by the EMS Medical Director or Designee prior to provider staffing assignment
 - b. Period of accreditation will be for a finite period of time

- T. 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 San Benito 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 San Benito 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.

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