



ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE- ALS PERSONNEL CRITERIA

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 and 1797.185; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the process by which a licensed California paramedic is permitted to practice in Orange County.

III. DEFINITIONS:

"Local Accreditation" or **"accreditation"** or **"accreditation to practice"** means authorization by OCEMS to practice as a paramedic within Orange County. Such authorization indicates that the paramedic has completed the requirements of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4.

IV. ACCREDITATION CRITERIA:

In order to be eligible for accreditation to practice in Orange County, the paramedic must meet all of the following:

- A. Possess a valid, current State of California paramedic license.
- B. Not be precluded from accreditation to practice as a paramedic for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
- C. Be affiliated with an OCEMS approved advanced life support (ALS) service provider.
- D. Successfully complete the accreditation process (See Section V) within a 30 day period.

V. ACCREDITATION PROCESS:

1. Paramedics applying for local accreditation as a **9-1-1 ALS paramedic** must complete and submit the following to OCEMS:
 - A. Copy of State of California paramedic license.
 - B. Evidence of successful completion of a maximum 8-hour orientation program of the Orange County EMS system as prescribed by OCEMS.
 - 1) Orientation program to include:
 - a. OCEMS Treatment Guidelines
 - b. OCEMS Policies and Procedures
 - c. OCEMS paramedic Scope of Practice
 - d. Orientation to the OCEMS communication system
 - 2) Only OCEMS, the OC paramedic training program, an OC base hospital coordinator, or an OC ALS service provider EMS coordinator may provide items a, b and c above.
 - 3) Item d above must be provided by the Orange County Sheriff/Communications division; this item is not required for IFT-ALS paramedic accreditation.



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- C. Evidence of completion of training in any local optional scope of practice for which the individual has not been trained and tested:
 - i. Attend an advanced airway skills review class.
 - ii. This training and testing is additional to the maximum 8-hour orientation program.
 - D. Evidence of successful completion of field evaluations of no more than 10 ALS responses supervised by an approved field preceptor and/or an Orange County base hospital coordinator.
 - E. Complete the appropriate OCEMS paramedic accreditation application online through OC-MEDS.
 - F. Pay the established fee. (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00)
2. Paramedics applying for local accreditation as a **IFT-ALS paramedic** must complete and submit the following to OCEMS:
- A. Copy of State of California paramedic license.
 - B. Evidence of completion of an OCEMS approved IFT-ALS Training Course which includes as a minimum the understanding of OCEMS policies and procedures, including IFT-ALS Standing Orders and Procedures and immediate ePCR posting using the OC-MEDS system.
 - C. Evidence of completion of an OCEMS approved advanced airway training program.
 - D. Copy of current CPR certification (Healthcare provider or professional rescuer course as approved by the OCEMS Medical Director), ACLS certification and PALS or PEPP certification.
 - E. Evidence of completion of ten (10) proctored IFT-ALS level transports.
 - F. Complete the appropriate OCEMS paramedic accreditation application online through OC-MEDS.
 - G. Pay the established fee (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00)
3. Paramedics applying for local accreditation as **Air Medical paramedic** must complete and submit the following to OCEMS:
- A. Copy of State of California paramedic license.
 - B. Evidence of completion of an OCEMS approved Medical Flight Crew Training Program.
 - C. Completion of an OCEMS approved OCEMS system orientation which includes as a minimum the understanding of OCEMS policies and procedures.
 - D. Copy of current CPR certification (Healthcare provider or professional rescuer course as approved by the OCEMS Medical Director), ACLS certification and PALS or PEPP certification.
 - E. Evidence of completion of ten (10) proctored Air Ambulance level transports.
 - F. Complete the appropriate OCEMS paramedic accreditation application online through OC-MEDS.
 - H. Pay the established fee (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00)



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***Note:** Air Medical Paramedic Accreditation applies only to Air Medical Paramedics assigned to an Air Ambulance base located within Orange County.

VI. MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION:

1. The OCEMS Paramedic Accreditation shall expire on the same date as that of the applicant's California Paramedic License or sooner if requested by applicant.
2. In order to maintain local accreditation to practice, the **9-1-1 ALS paramedic** shall submit evidence of the following via the 9-1-1 ALS paramedic accreditation verification in OC-MEDS:
 - A. Copy of valid State of California Paramedic license.
 - B. Demonstrate sufficient patient contact experience as evidenced by PCR documentation review based on agency standards and CQI plan as submitted to OCEMS.
 - C. Evidence of completion of one advanced airway review session per year.

Note: The OCEMS medical director and/or the base hospital physician director may require additional airway review for any paramedic at any time if deemed necessary (e.g., undetected or uncorrected esophageal intubation, dislodgement, other).

- D. Evidence of successful completion of all OCEMS approved mandatory EMS system updates and in-services.
 - E. Complete the OCEMS 9-1-1 ALS paramedic accreditation verification application online through OC-MEDS.
3. In order to maintain local accreditation to practice, the **IFT-ALS paramedic** shall:
 - A. Complete above criteria maintaining accreditation VI.2. A, B, and D "In order to maintain local accreditation to practice"

AND

- B. Submit evidence of successful completion of an annual OCEMS approved advanced airway skill review.
 - C. Submit a copy of current CPR certification (Healthcare provider or professional rescuer course as approved by the OCEMS Medical Director), ACLS certification and PALS or PEPP certification.
 - D. Complete the OCEMS IFT-ALS paramedic renewal accreditation application online through OC-MEDS.
 - E. Pay the established fee

4. In order to maintain local accreditation to practice, the **Air Medical paramedic** shall:
 - A. Complete above criteria maintaining accreditation VI.2. A, B, and D "In order to maintain local accreditation to practice"

AND

- B. Submit evidence of successful completion of an annual OCEMS approved medical flight crew advanced airway skill review.



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- C. Submit a copy of current CPR certification (Healthcare provider or professional rescuer course as approved by the OCEMS Medical Director), ACLS certification and PALS or PEPP certification.
- D. Complete the OCEMS Air Medical paramedic renewal accreditation application online through OC-MEDS.
- E. Pay the established fee.

VII. INACTIVE STATUS:

1. A 9-1-1 ALS paramedic will be considered INACTIVE if any conditions listed in Section VI. 2 are not satisfied.
2. An IFT-ALS paramedic will be considered INACTIVE if any of the conditions listed in Section VI.3 are not satisfied.
3. An Air Medical paramedic will be considered INACTIVE if any of the conditions listed in Section VI.4 are not satisfied.

VIII. ACCREDITED PARAMEDIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

The OCEMS accredited paramedic is responsible for all of the following:

- A. Notification of OCEMS at any point accreditation criteria is not being met.
- B. Compliance with OCEMS Policies/Procedures, Standing Orders and Treatment Guidelines.

IX. PROVIDER AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES:

The provider agency shall be responsible for all of the following:

- A. Ensuring the paramedic is not precluded from practice for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
- B. Reporting to OCEMS any situations as mandated by statute.
- C. Assuring the paramedic meets performance standards as outlined in the sponsoring agencies quality assurance/improvement program to safely provide prehospital emergency medical care.
- D. Assuring the paramedic is current in all accreditation requirements including skills training and mandatory in-services.
- E. Advising OCEMS and the assigned base hospital within thirty (30) days when a paramedic changes status (ACTIVE to INACTIVE). Notification shall include the name and OCEMS accreditation number of the paramedic and the reason for the change in status.

X. EMS AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

- A) OCEMS shall review paramedic applications submitted by the paramedic and his/her sponsoring agency for completeness and determine if the individual meets all local accreditation requirements.



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B) Successful applicants and his/her sponsoring agency shall be notified regarding local accreditation within thirty (30) days of documentation of all accreditation requirements and payment of the established fee.

Note: A state licensed paramedic may practice as a second paramedic in Orange County within the limitations of the State basic scope of practice for a period of up to thirty (30) days while awaiting issuance of local accreditation. Performance of any OCEMS *optional* skills and procedures by the accreditation applicant must be done in the presence of an approved field preceptor, the OCEMS approved paramedic training program, and/or an Orange County base hospital coordinator.

C) OCEMS shall assign a local accreditation number; this number shall be used on all documents used within the OCEMS system.

D) OCEMS shall submit to the EMS Authority the names and dates of accreditation for those individuals it accredits within twenty working days of accreditation.

E) Paramedics who are continuously employed by OCEMS are accredited to practice as a paramedic in Orange County and are exempt from the authorization / reauthorization process.

Note: Individuals who are accredited as a paramedic in Orange County shall utilize the Orange County Scope of Practice when responding out-of-county (e.g., inter-county transport of patients, mutual or automatic aid, on a strike team) or during a disaster.

Approved:

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