

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 134 Page 1 of 3
Subject	Paramedic Continued Accreditation / Continuing Education	
References	California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9 Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code	Effective 04/15/96

I. POLICY

A Paramedic may be licensed within the State of California and maintain accreditation as a paramedic within Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare County by successfully maintaining accreditation requirements.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Accreditation to practice shall be continuous as long as each of the following met:

1. State licensure is maintained, including attendance and satisfactory completion of mandatory continuing education required by the State EMS Authority
2. The paramedic continues to meet local requirements, which include:
 - a. Submitting a local accreditation application form requesting continued accreditation.
 - b. Paying the established non-refundable EMS Agency processing fee.
 - c. Submitting a copy of a current and valid California Paramedic Licensure Card.
 - d. Demonstrate proof of present employment by a designated ALS provider agency in Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare County.
 - e. Successful completion of the local accreditation test on local policies and treatment protocols.
3. The paramedic meets the requirements of the system-wide Continuous Quality Improvement policy.

B. Requests for exception to policy will be made in writing to the Central California EMS Agency.

C. The EMS Agency shall issue a wallet-sized certificate to eligible persons who successfully complete all criteria for recertification. That certificate shall contain the information specified in Policy #133.

D. Continuing Education

1. In order to acquire acceptable continuing education credit, prehospital personnel shall attend classes and courses that are provided by Continuing Education (CE) Providers approved either by

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the Central California EMS Agency, another Local EMS Agency or the California State EMS Authority. Continuing Education Providers approved by Central California EMS Agency shall adhere to the provisions of this policy when issuing continuing education credit for classes or courses offered for continuing education.

2. Continuing Education credit shall be granted for:
 - a. Courses in any of the topics contained in the respective National Standard Curricula for training EMS personnel.
 - b. Advanced topics in subject matter outside the scope of practice of the certified or licensed EMS personnel but directly relevant to emergency medical care (e.g., surgical airway procedures).
3. Delivery formats for CE courses shall be any of the following:
 - a. Classroom – Didactic and/or skills laboratory where direct interaction with instructor is possible.
 - b. Organized field care audits of patient care records.
 - c. Courses offered by accredited universities and colleges, including junior and community colleges.
 - d. Structured clinical experience, with instructional objectives, to review or expand the clinical expertise of the individual.
 - e. Media based and/or serial productions (e.g., films, videos, audiotape programs, magazine articles offered for CE credit, home study, computer simulations or interactive computer modules).
 - f. Precepting EMS students or EMS personnel as assigned by an EMS training program, or an EMS service provider. CE for precepting can only be given for actual time spent precepting a student or EMS personnel and must be issued by the EMS training program or EMS service provider that has an agreement or contract with the field preceptor or with the preceptor's employer. In order to issue CE for precepting EMS students or EMS personnel, an EMS service provider must be a CE provider.
4. Limitations
 - a. At least fifty percent of the required CE hours must be in a format that is instructor-based, which means that instructor resources are readily available to the student to answer questions, provide feedback, provide clarification and address concerns (e.g., on-line CE courses where an instructor is available to the student). This provision shall not include precepting or magazine articles for CE credit. The Central California EMS Agency shall determine whether a CE course, class or activity is instructor-based.
 - b. During a certification or licensure cycle, an individual may receive credit, one time only, for services as a CE course, class, or activity instructor. Credit received shall be the same as the number of CE hours applied to the course, class, or activity.

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- c. During a certification or licensure cycle, an individual may receive credit, one time only, for services as an instructor for an approved EMT, Advanced-EMT, or Paramedic training program, except that the hours of service shall not exceed fifty percent of the total CE hours required in a single certification or licensure cycle.
 - d. When guided by the EMS service provider's quality improvement programs, an EMS service provider that is an approved CE provider may issue continuing education hours for skills competency demonstrations to address any deficiencies identified by the service provider quality improvement program. Skills competency demonstration shall be conducted with the respective National Standard Curriculum skills outline or in accordance with the certification policies of the Central California EMS Agency.
 - e. An individual may receive credit for taking the same CE course, class, or activity no more than two times during a single certification or licensure cycle.
 - f. If it is determined through a quality improvement program that EMS personnel working in a local EMS System need remediation or refresher in an area of the individual's knowledge and/or skills, the Central California EMS Agency Medical Director or an EMS service provider may require the EMS personnel to take an approved CE course with learning objectives that addresses the remediation or refresher needed, as part of the individual's required hours of CE for maintaining certification or licensure.
 - g. Because paramedic licensure renewal applications are due to the EMS Authority thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of a paramedic license, a CE course taken in the last month of a paramedic's licensure cycle, may be applied to the paramedic's subsequent licensure cycle, if that CE course was not applied to the licensure cycle during which the CE course was taken.
5. Continuing Education Records:
- a. CE shall be completed during the current certification or licensure cycle.
 - b. In order for CE to satisfy the requirements for renewal of a lapsed certificate or license, CE shall be valid for a maximum of two years prior to the date of submission of a completed application for certificate or license renewal.
 - c. EMS personnel shall maintain for four years, CE certificates issued to them by any CE provider.
 - d. CE certificates may be audited for cause by the certifying or licensing authority or as part of the certifying or licensing authority's continuing education verification process.