



I. AUTHORITY:

*Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 and 1797.185; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100142 Local Accreditation, Section 100145 Scope of Practice of Paramedic, and 100165 Accreditation to Practice.*

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the process by which an emergency medical technician-paramedic (EMT-P) 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, Section 100165 Accreditation to Practice.

IV. ACCREDITATION CRITERIA:

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

- A. Possess a valid, current State of California EMT-P license.
- B. Not be precluded from accreditation to practice as an EMT-P for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
- C. Be affiliated with and be sponsored to perform EMT-P duties by 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:

EMT-Ps applying for local accreditation must complete and/or submit proof of the following to OCEMS:

- A. Copy of course completion certificate from an approved paramedic training program.
- B. Copy of State of California EMT-P license.
- C. Written proof of sponsorship by an OCEMS ALS approved service provider agency.
- D. Complete and sign the OCEMS accreditation to practice application.
- E. Pay the established fee.
- F. Successfully complete 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 EMT-P 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.

Approved:



**ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE EMT-PARAMEDIC**



- G. Complete training in any local optional scope of practice for which the individual has not been trained and tested:
  - 1) Attend an advanced airway skills review class, to include management of the difficult airway and use of the flexible intubation guide.
  - 2) This training and testing is additional to the maximum 8-hour orientation program.
- H. Successfully complete field evaluation of no more than 10 ALS responses supervised by an approved field preceptor and/or an Orange County base hospital coordinator.
- I. New graduates of an Orange County paramedic training program are exempt from items E., F., G., and H. of this section if applying for accreditation within six (6) months of graduation.

VI. MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION:

In order to maintain local accreditation to practice, the EMT-P shall:

- A. Submit a copy of their valid EMT-P license within thirty (30) days of receipt from the California State EMS Authority.
- B. Continue to be sponsored by an approved OC ALS service provider.
- C. Have sufficient patient contact experience to maintain skills proficiency.
- D. Complete 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).
- E. Successfully complete all OCEMS approved mandatory in-services.

VII. INACTIVE STATUS:

An EMT-P will be considered INACTIVE if any conditions listed in Section VI. 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 are not being met.
- B. Compliance with OCEMS Policies/Procedures and Treatment Guidelines.

IX. PROVIDER AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

- A. Ensuring the EMT-P 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 EMT-P has sufficient patient contact experience to maintain skills to safely provide prehospital emergency medical care.
- D. Assuring the EMT-P is current in all accreditation requirements including skills training and mandatory in-services.
- E. Submitting to OCEMS a copy of the EMT-Ps renewed state paramedic license within thirty (30) days of receipt.

Approved:



**ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE EMT-PARAMEDIC**



- F. Advising OCEMS and the assigned base hospital within thirty (30) days when an EMT-P changes status (ACTIVE to INACTIVE). Notification shall include the name and OCEMS identification number of the EMT-P and the reason for the change in status.

**X. EMS AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A) OCEMS shall review the paperwork submitted by the EMT-P and his/her sponsoring agency for completeness and determine if the individual meets all local accreditation requirements.
- B) Successful applicants and his/her sponsoring agency shall be notified regarding local accreditation within thirty (30) days of receipt of all required paperwork.

**Note:** A state licensed EMT-P 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 OC EMS 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.

**XI. DENIAL / SUSPENSION / WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION**

Denial, suspension, and/or withdrawal of accreditation will adhere to OCEMS Policy and Procedure #460.00.

**Note:**

Individuals who are accredited as an EMT-P 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: