



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### Emergency Medical Services Agency

POLICY #220

#### TITLE: **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) CERTIFICATION**

APPROVED: ON-FILE

EMS Administration: James Clark, MICP

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ON-FILE

EMS Medical Director: Ajinder Singh, MD CPE

**Authority:** Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Sections 1797.210 and 1798.200, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100059, 10059.1, 100066, 100075, 100079, 100080, 100081, 100344, 100347, 100348, 100349 and 100390-100395, California Penal Code, Section 11105(b)(11).

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for issuing Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification in the Merced County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System.

**Policy:** The Merced County EMS Agency is the designated EMT Certifying Authority for Merced County.

#### I. Initial Certification

- A. An individual who meets one of the following criteria shall be eligible for initial certification upon fulfilling the requirements of subdivision (B) of this policy:
  1. Pass the cognitive examination and psychomotor examination specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100059 and 10059.1 within two (2) years from the date of application for EMT certification and have a valid EMT course completion record or other documented proof of successful completion of any initial EMT course approved pursuant to Section 100066 of this Chapter issued within two (2) years of the date of application, or
  2. Pass the cognitive examination and psychomotor examination specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100059 and 10059.1 within two (2) years from the date of application for EMT certification and have documentation of successful completion of an approved out-of-state initial EMT training course that meets the requirements of this Chapter issued within two (2) years of the date of application, or
  3. Pass the cognitive examination and psychomotor examination specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100059 and 10059.1 within two (2) years from the date of application for EMT certification and have a current and valid out-of-state EMT certificate, or
  4. Possess a current and valid National Registry EMT, Advanced EMT or Paramedic registration certificate, or

5. Possess a current and valid out-of-state Advanced EMT or Paramedic certificate, or
  6. Possess a current and valid California Advanced EMT certificate or a current and valid California Paramedic license.
- B. In addition to meeting one of the criteria listed in subdivision (A) above, to be eligible for initial certification, an individual shall:
1. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
  2. Complete the criminal history background check requirement as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100347, 100348 and 100349. The certifying entity shall receive the State and Federal criminal background check results before issuing an initial certification;
  3. Complete an application form that contains this statement: "*I hereby certify under **penalty of perjury** that all information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any falsification or omission of material facts may cause forfeiture on my part of all rights to EMT certification in the state of California. I understand all information on this application is subject to verification, and I hereby give my express permission for this certifying entity to contact any person or agency for information related to my role and function as an EMT in California.*";
- C. Disclose any prior and/or current certification, licensure, or accreditation actions:
1. Against an EMT or Advanced EMT certificate, or any denial of certification by a LEMSA, including any active investigations;
  2. Against a Paramedic license, or any denial of licensure by the Authority, including any active investigations;
  3. Against any EMS-related certification or license of another state or other issuing entity, including denials and any active investigations; or
  4. Against any health-related license.
- D. Disclose any pending or current criminal investigations;
- E. Disclose any pending criminal charges;
- F. Disclose any prior convictions;
- G. Disclose each certifying entity or LEMSA to which the applicant has applied for certification in the previous 12 months; and

- H. Pay the established fee.
- I. The effective date of initial certification shall be the day the certificate is issued.
- J. The expiration date for an initial EMT certificate shall be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date of the initial certification.
- K. The EMT shall be responsible for notifying the certifying entity of her/his proper and current mailing address and shall notify the certifying entity in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of any and all changes of the mailing address, giving both the old and the new address, and EMT registry number.
- L. An EMT shall only be certified by one (1) certifying entity during a certification period.

## II. EMT Certification Renewal

- A. In order to renew certification, an EMT shall:
  - 1. Possess a current EMT Certification issued in California.
  - 2. Meet one of the following continuing education requirements:
    - i. Successfully complete a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course from an approved EMT training program within the 24 months prior to applying for renewal, or
    - ii. Obtain at least twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education (CE), within the 24 months prior to applying for renewal, from an approved CE provider in accordance with the provisions contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 11, EMS Continuing Education.<sup>1</sup>
  - 3. Complete an application form and other processes as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100079, subdivisions (b)(3)-(b)(9).
  - 4. Complete the criminal history background check requirements as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100347, 100348 and 100349 when changing certifying entities. The certifying entity shall receive the State and Federal criminal background check results before issuing a certification.
  - 5. Submit a completed skills competency verification form, EMSA-SCV (01/17). [Form EMSA-SCV \(01/17\)](#) is herein incorporated by reference. Skills competency shall be verified by direct observation of an actual or simulated patient contact. Skills competency shall be verified by an individual who is

<sup>1</sup> CE hours may be used to renew multiple licensure/certification types as long as they are earned within the licensure/certification cycle being renewed and were not used in a previous cycle.

currently certified or licensed as an EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, Registered Nurse, Physician's Assistant, or Physician and who shall be designated by an EMS approved training program (EMT training program, AEMT training program, Paramedic training program or CE provider), or an EMS service provider. EMS service providers include, but are not limited to, public safety agencies, private ambulance providers and other EMS providers. Verification of skills competency shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years for the purpose of applying for recertification.

6. An EMT renewing his or her certification for the first time shall submit documentation of successful completion of the following training by an approved EMT training program or approved CE provider:
  - i. The use and administration of naloxone or other opioid antagonist that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection 100075, subsection (c).
  - ii. The use and administration of epinephrine by auto-injector that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (d).
  - iii. The use of a glucometer that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (e).
  - iv. If an individual possesses a current California-issued paramedic license or California Advanced EMT certificate, then the individual need not comply with subsections (i)-(iv), above.
7. The EMT certifying entity shall issue a wallet-sized certificate card, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100344, subdivisions (c) and (d), within forty-five (45) days to eligible individuals who apply for EMT renewal and successfully complete the certification requirements of this policy.
8. If the EMT renewal requirements are met within six (6) months prior to the current certification expiration date, the EMT Certifying entity shall make the effective date of renewal the date immediately following the expiration date of the current certificate. The certification will expire the last day of the month two (2) years from the day prior to the effective date.
9. If the EMT renewal requirements are met greater than six (6) months prior to the expiration date, the EMT Certifying entity shall make the effective date of renewal the day the certificate is issued. The certification expiration date will be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date.
10. A California certified EMT who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and whose certification expires while deployed on active duty, or

whose certification expires less than six (6) months from the date they return from active duty deployment, with the Armed Forces of the United States shall have six (6) months from the date they return from active duty deployment to complete the requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, 100080, subdivisions (a)(2)-(a)(5). In order to qualify for this exception, the individual shall:

- i. Submit proof of his or her membership in the Armed Forces of the United States, and
  - ii. Submit documentation of his or her deployment starting and ending dates.
11. Continuing education credit may be given for documented training that meets the requirements of Chapter 11 of this Division while the individual was deployed on active duty.
  12. The continuing education documentation shall include verification from the individual's Commanding Officer attesting to the training attended.

### III. Reinstatement of an Expired California EMT Certificate

- A. The following requirements apply to individuals who wish to be eligible for reinstatement after their California EMT certificates have expired:
  1. For a lapse of less than six (6) months, the individual shall meet one of the following continuing education requirements:
    - i. Successfully complete a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course from an approved EMT training program within the 24 months prior to applying for reinstatement, or
    - ii. Obtain at least twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education (CE), within the 24 months prior to applying for reinstatement, from an approved CE provider in accordance with the provisions contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 11, EMS Continuing Education.<sup>2</sup>
    - iii. Complete an application form and other processes as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 2, Emergency Medical Technician, Section 100079, subdivisions (b)(3)-(b)(9).
    - iv. Complete the criminal history background check requirements as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 10, California EMT Central Registry, when the background check results are not on file with the certifying entity that is processing the reinstatement.

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<sup>2</sup> CE hours may be used to renew multiple licensure/certification types.

The certifying entity shall receive the State and Federal criminal background check results before issuing a certification.

- v. Submit a completed skills competency verification form, EMSA-SCV (01/17). [Form EMSA-SCV \(01/17\)](#) is herein incorporated by reference. Skills competency shall be verified by direct observation of an actual or simulated patient contact. Skills competency shall be verified by an individual who is currently certified or licensed as an EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, Registered Nurse, Physician's Assistant, or Physician and who shall be designated by an EMS approved training program (EMT training program, AEMT training program, Paramedic training program or CE provider), or an EMS service provider. EMS service providers include, but are not limited to, public safety agencies, private ambulance providers and other EMS providers. Verification of skills competency shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years for the purpose of applying for recertification.
  - vi. An EMT applying for reinstatement of his or her certification for the first time shall submit documentation of successful completion of the following training by an approved EMT training program or approved CE provider:
    - a) The use and administration of naloxone or other opioid antagonist that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (c).
    - b) The use and administration of epinephrine by auto-injector that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (d).
    - c) The use of a glucometer that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (e).
    - d) If an individual possesses a current California-issued paramedic license or California Advanced EMT certificate, then the individual need not comply with subsections vi a) – c), above.
2. For a lapse of six (6) months or more, but less than twelve (12) months, the individual shall meet one of the following continuing education requirements:
- a) Successfully complete a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course from an approved EMT training program, and twelve (12) hours of continuing education, within the 24 months prior to applying for reinstatement, or
  - b) Obtain at least thirty-six (36) hours of continuing education (CE), within the 24 months prior to applying for reinstatement, from an

approved CE provider in accordance with the provisions contained in this policy.<sup>3</sup>

- c) Complete an application form and other processes as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 2, Emergency Medical Technician, Section 100079, subdivisions (b)(3)-(b)(9).
- d) Complete the criminal history background check requirement as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100347, 100348 and 100349 when the background check results are not on file with the certifying entity that is processing the reinstatement. The certifying entity shall receive the State and Federal criminal background check results before issuing a certification.
- e) Submit a completed skills competency verification form, EMSA-SCV (01/17). [Form EMSA-SCV \(01/17\)](#) is herein incorporated by reference. Skills competency shall be verified by direct observation of an actual or simulated patient contact. Skills competency shall be verified by an individual who is currently certified or licensed as an EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, Registered Nurse, Physician's Assistant, or Physician and who shall be designated by an EMS approved training program (EMT training program, AEMT training program, Paramedic training program or CE provider), or an EMS service provider. EMS service providers include, but are not limited to, public safety agencies, private ambulance providers and other EMS providers. Verification of skills competency shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years for the purpose of applying for recertification.
- f) An EMT applying for reinstatement of his or her certification for the first time shall submit documentation of successful completion of the following training by an approved EMT training program or approved CE provider:
  - a) The use and administration of naloxone or other opioid antagonist that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (c).
  - b) The use and administration of epinephrine by auto-injector that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (d).
  - c) The use of a glucometer that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100075, subsection (e).

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<sup>3</sup> CE hours may be used to renew multiple licensure/certification types.

- d) If an individual possesses a current California-issued paramedic license or California Advanced EMT certificate, then the individual need not comply with subsections a) – c), above.
3. For a lapse of twelve (12) months or more, the individual shall meet one of the following continuing education requirements:
  - a) Successfully complete a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course from an approved EMT training program, and twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education, within the 24 months prior to applying for reinstatement, or
  - b) Obtain at least forty-eight (48) hours of continuing education (CE), within the 24 months prior to applying for reinstatement, from an approved CE provider in accordance with the provisions contained in Chapter 11 of this Division.<sup>4</sup>
  - c) Complete an application form and other processes as specified in Section 100079, subdivisions (b)(3)-(b)(5), of this Chapter.
  - d) Complete the criminal history background check requirement as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100347, 100348 and 100349. The certifying entity shall receive the State and Federal criminal background check results before issuing a certification.
  - e) Submit a completed skills competency verification form, EMSA-SCV (01/17). [Form EMSA-SCV \(01/17\)](#) is herein incorporated by reference. Skills competency shall be verified by direct observation of an actual or simulated patient contact. Skills competency shall be verified by an individual who is currently certified or licensed as an EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, Registered Nurse, Physician's Assistant, or Physician and who shall be designated by an EMS approved training program (EMT training program, AEMT training program, Paramedic training program or CE provider), or an EMS service provider. EMS service providers include, but are not limited to, public safety agencies, private ambulance providers and other EMS providers. Verification of skills competency shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years for the purpose of applying for recertification.
  - f) An EMT applying for reinstatement of his or her certification for the first time shall submit documentation of successful completion of the following training by an approved EMT training program or approved CE provider:
    1. The use and administration of naloxone or other opioid antagonist that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, 100075, subsection (c).

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<sup>4</sup> CE hours may be used to renew multiple licensure/certification types.

2. The use and administration of epinephrine by auto-injector that meets the standards and requirements of section 100075, subsection (d).
  3. The use of a glucometer that meets the standards and requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, 100075, subsection (e).
  4. If an individual possesses a current California-issued paramedic license or California Advanced EMT certificate, then the individual need not comply with subsections 1.-3., above.
- g) Pass the cognitive and psychomotor exams, as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100059 and 100059.1 within two (2) years of the date of application for EMT reinstatement unless the individual possesses a current and valid EMT, AEMT or paramedic National Registry Certificate or a current and valid AEMT certificate or paramedic license.
  - h) For individuals who meet the requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100081, subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3), the EMT certifying entity shall make the effective date of reinstatement the day the certificate is issued. The certification expiration date will be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date.
  - i) The EMT certifying entity shall issue a wallet-sized certificate card, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100344, subdivisions (c) and (d), within forty-five (45) days to eligible individuals who apply for EMT reinstatement and successfully complete the requirements of this policy.