

I. Purpose:

- A. The purpose of this policy is to define the requirements for paramedic accreditation in Imperial County.
- B. Accreditation provides a licensed paramedic with the authorization to work and perform paramedic skills as established by Imperial County EMS.

II. Authority:

- A. California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Division 9..
- B. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5.

III. Definitions:

- A. Accreditation – Licensed paramedic has been oriented to the local EMS system, and has been trained and deemed competent in the use of those additional skills and medications of the EMT-P level.
- B. Continuous Accreditation – Accreditation shall be continuous as long as licensure is maintained and the local EMS agency requirements are met.
- C. Paramedic – an individual who is educated and trained in all elements of prehospital advanced life support (ALS).
- D. Reaccreditation – Renewal of accreditation when there has been a lapse in California State licensure and/or local EMS agency accreditation.

IV. Policy:

- A. To be considered for accreditation as an Paramedic in Imperial County, a completed application shall be submitted to the Imperial County Public Health Department EMS Agency.

1. Application Packet including:

- a. Paramedic Application found on the Imperial County EMS website
- b. Statement of Affiliation found on the Imperial County EMS website
- c. Statement of Eligibility found on the Imperial County EMS website
- d. California EMT-Paramedic license
- e. Valid ID such as driver license, identification card, or passport
- f. ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) provider card
- g. PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) or PEPP (Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professional) provider card

1. This requirement shall be in effective beginning January 1, 2026

- h. BLS card (AHA Healthcare Provider or equivalent as approved by ICEMS)
 - i. Pay local and state established fees
2. **Imperial County Paramedic Accreditation Test**
 - a. Successfully pass the Imperial County paramedic accreditation test with a score of 80% or better. If candidate fails to pass the accreditation test he/she will be allowed to retake the exam no sooner than one week from the initial exam date.
3. **Field Evaluation**
 - a. All candidates shall complete a field evaluation to determine the candidate's knowledge of local policies and protocols, radio communications, base and receiving hospitals, and other system features.
 - b. Once an application has been submitted, the applicant may practice the EMT-P scope of practice, however applicant shall be the second EMT-P, practicing under an EMT-P field evaluator.
 - c. Field evaluator must be an EMT-P accredited by Imperial County EMS.
 - d. Field evaluator must be present with applicant throughout the care of the patient with a third person available to drive the ambulance.
 - e. The field evaluator has the ultimate responsibility for patient care rendered by the EMT-P applicant.
 - f. Field evaluations shall consist of ten (10) ALS contact calls.
 - g. The Imperial County 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 to ensure the paramedic is competent.
 1. If, after several failed remediation attempts, the medical director has reason to believe that the paramedic's competency to practice is questionable, then the medical director shall notify the California Emergency Medical Services Authority.
4. **Application Approval**
 - a. The applicant has 30 days from the initial application to complete all requirements for Imperial County accreditation.

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- b. If the applicant fails to complete all requirements for accreditation as outlined, the Imperial County EMS Agency will notify the applicant that their application for accreditation was denied.
- c. The Imperial County EMS Agency may grant an additional 30 days to complete accreditation, if necessary.
- d. The Imperial County EMS Agency may waive portions of the accreditation requirements as deemed necessary and/or appropriate.
- e. Upon completion of the above requirements, the applicant shall be issued an Imperial County accreditation card.

B. Expanded Scope of Practice

1. Training and testing in any expanded scope of practice skill will focus on local policies, procedures, equipment utilization and other aspects that may differ from another county. The local EMS agency may choose to delegate this training and testing to other EMS system participants. Testing in the expanded scope of practice may be in written, oral and/or skills format. Repeated training may be required until proficiency is achieved.
 - a. Training and testing in the expanded scope of practice must be completed within thirty (30) days from receipt of an application for accreditation. The provider agency may do the training and testing on any optional scope if time is a factor.

C. Accreditation Renewal

1. To maintain continuous accreditation, every two (2) years a paramedic shall:
 - a. Maintain a continuous California Paramedic state license.
 - b. Complete required continuing education as required by California EMSA.
 - c. Be currently employed and sponsored by an approved Imperial County ALS providing agency.
 - d. Complete a Paramedic Renewal application
 - e. Maintain a CPR card, which meets American Heart Association Guidelines at the Healthcare Provider level, ACLS certification.
 - f. Maintenance of a PALS or PEPP certification (effective January 1, 2026)

D. Accreditation Maintenance

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1. Accreditation to practice as a paramedic is only valid while employed with an affiliated Imperial County agency.
2. Loss of employment with an approved Imperial County ALS provider invalidates accreditation.
 - a. Confirmed re-employment within 3 months of separation from original approved employer only requires a current Statement of Affiliation.
3. It is the paramedic's responsibility to keep contact information up to date including:
 - a. Address
 - b. Phone number
 - c. Employment
4. Any changes must be reported within thirty (30) days of occurrence.

APPROVED:

SIGNATURE ON FILE – 07/01/25

Katherine Staats, M.D. FACEP

EMS Medical Director