

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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DATE: March 19, 2021

TO: EMS Education Community, Local EMS Agencies, and Certifying Entities

FROM: Dave Duncan MD
Director

SUBJECT: REVISED POLICY TO IMPLEMENT THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR REGARDING EMS LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, AND TRAINING

On the 30th day of March 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-39-20, which states in part:

“6. To ensure the continued operation of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system without unduly endangering the people of California during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority may as necessary and only for the duration of the declared emergency, suspend any licensing, certification, or training requirements for EMS personnel as contained in the EMS Act Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and accompanying regulations, including the authority to permit EMS personnel to provide services in any setting as authorized by the Director for the performance of the current scope of practice. The Authority shall provide guidance to local emergency medical services authorities directing the appropriate qualifications and scope of practice for each classification operating under a waiver based on sound clinical guidelines and the individual’s training, education, and work experience. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Authority’s website.”

In order to implement the Governor’s order waiving statutory and regulatory requirements for EMS Personnel to ensure the continued operation of emergency medical services, the EMS Authority is directing the California EMS System consisting of local EMS agencies, certifying entities, EMS providers and employers, paramedics, AEMTS and EMTs to implement the following actions:

1. EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics shall be allowed to perform their current scope of practice in hospitals, medical facilities, alternate care sites, shelter

care sites, in-home settings, or any additional setting approved by the director of the Authority for purposes of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. EMTs, AEMTs or paramedics who have been functioning with an expired license or certification, per the March 18, 2020 policy, will have until April 30, 2021 to reinstate their previous license/certification or to stop providing services.

EMS personnel who assisted with COVID-19 response by working under an expired license, as allowed by the May 18, 2020, policy point 3, the reinstatement requirements are waived and the EMS license/certification may be renewed with the standard renewal requirements, if the personnel can produce a letter stating they were working as part of the COVID response from an employer and the renewal is completed by April 30, 2021.

3. The requirement for a completed skills competency verification by EMTs for renewal or reinstatement is waived for the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency.
4. For the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency, EMT training programs may:
 - a. Allow for the use of high fidelity simulation, scenarios, or other innovative educational environments, during the 24 hours of clinical training that includes ten clinical contacts when approved by the EMT training program's approving authority.
 - b. Suspend EMT skills exams for certification due to social distancing restrictions.
5. For the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency, paramedic training programs with current paramedic students shall:
 - a. Inform students in writing of the need to extend clinical and/or field internship placement and an estimated timeline of the extension.
 - b. Allow for student participation in the use of high fidelity simulation, scenarios, and other innovative educational environments as substitutes for the clinical and field internship training if approved in writing by the program medical director, program advisory committee and the paramedic training program provider approving authority in conjunction with CoAEMSP training and student terminal competency guidance.
 - c. Allow for students to use high fidelity simulation to substitute 20 of the 40 required field internship patient contacts and 10 of the 20 required

documented experiences performing the role of team lead.

- d. Allow for students to substitute their required field internship to expand beyond a prehospital emergency setting within an organized EMS system to include healthcare settings that commensurate with the skills experience needed; including a minimum of 40 documented ALS patient contacts and 20 documented team leads when provided under an approved paramedic preceptor and approved in writing by the program medical director, program advisory committee and the paramedic program provider approving authority in conjunction with CoAEMSP training and student terminal competency guidance.
 - e. LEMSA's may elect to waive section 100150(h)(2) of Chapter 4 requiring that a paramedic have at least 2 years experience before being qualified to serve as a paramedic preceptor, allowing for a minimum of 1 year experience; when the candidate paramedic preceptor is accredited with the LESMA.
6. EMS training programs may provide psychomotor skills exams if they can ensure social distancing in compliance with guidelines put forth by the CDC and CDPH.
 7. When NREMT psychomotor skills exams become widely available to EMT students, EMSA will send a notification to the certifying entities notifying them of this information. The certifying entity will work with EMTs with Active Restricted certifications to pass the psychomotor exams and receive a full NREMT registration. Any EMTs have not received a full NREMT registration or proof of passing the NREMT psychomotor skills exam within six months of that notification shall have their certification/license status changed to expired.
 8. Paramedics are now required to complete their psychomotor exam for purposes of initial licensure.
 9. Where psychomotor exams are unavailable, NREMT provisional registrations or proof of passing the NREMT cognitive (knowledge) written assessment exam shall be accepted for the purpose of certification, or reinstatement in California and EMS personnel will be issued a temporary active restricted EMT, or AEMT certification.. To obtain an active unrestricted certification or license, temporary certificate or license holders must show proof of passing the NREMT psychomotor skills exam within six months of the NREMT resuming psychomotor skills testing.