

Chapter: COUNTY Of SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Continuing Education for
Prehospital Personnel

POLICY NO: S-307
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DATE: March 1, 2012

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.214 and 1797.220.

I. PURPOSE

To identify the scope and role of the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) Continuing Education (CE) program for prehospital personnel.

II. POLICY

- A.** The CE program for prehospital personnel shall be recognized as an important link in the San Diego County system-wide quality improvement process, and will receive oversight from the CoSD EMS Medical Director or designee.
- B.** The CE program shall be implemented in accordance with Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 11 of the California Code of Regulations.
- C.** Within the requirements of San Diego policies regarding paramedic accreditation, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) certification, and Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) authorization, the CoSD EMS will accept CE activities approved by other California local EMS agencies or through their approved providers of CE for recertification/authorization/accreditation purposes or re-establishing lapsed certification or licensure.
- D.** CoSD EMS shall publish and maintain the *Continuing Education Handbook for EMS Personnel* manual and make that manual available to approved providers and potential providers. The manual shall identify the requirements for the provider designation and renewal process, guidelines for qualifications of program personnel, specific guidelines for course approval, and other material specific to designated CE providers.

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- E.** CoSD EMS shall maintain a list of current approved CE providers, including the contact person for the program, approval issue date and expiration date, and assigned provider number.
- F.** CE activities offered by CoSD EMS approved providers, in accordance with San Diego guidelines, shall be considered to be “approved” by CoSD EMS.
- G.** In addition to approval for CE activities presented by approved providers, CoSD EMS may, at its discretion, award CE credits for other activities not presented by approved providers. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Nationally Recognized Curricula – Programs offered using nationally recognized curricula, such as the Red Cross/Heart Association Cardiovascular Resuscitation (CPR) C program, Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), or Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) may be utilized for recertification/licensure purposes, regardless of the provider’s CE Providership status. It will be the responsibility of the participant to maintain a course completion record and course outline that indicates the total hours of the individual’s participation (in activities relevant to the individual’s level) for audit purposes.
 2. National Standard Curriculum refers to the curricula developed under the auspices of the United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the specified level of training of EMS personnel.
- H.** CoSD EMS will not pre-authorize course outlines from non-approved CE Providers to determine their possible acceptance for recertification purposes. Nationally recognized curricula presented by non-providers may be accepted and approved by the County, but individual courses, conferences, or other activities will not be recognized if they are not sponsored and approved by an authorized provider.
- I.** Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who have attended courses from non-providers (except in the case of a course using a nationally recognized course

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curriculum) must submit ALL of the following at the time of recertification/reaccreditation if they wish recertification/reaccreditation credit:

1. Title of course, name of instructor, location, and telephone number of presenter
2. Date of course, course outline, course learning objectives, and a copy of course evaluation form
3. The number of hours of information/experience relevant to EMT activities

The EMT should be informed that there is no guarantee of acceptance of these courses for recertification. EMTs are reminded that extra activities may be required for recertification if the hours from a non-provider are rejected by CoSD EMS.

- J.** CoSD EMS will NOT review individual courses offered by non-approved providers for paramedic CE credit. Paramedics wishing credit for activities sponsored by organizations located in California counties other than San Diego County should contact that county's local EMS agency. Paramedics should contact the California EMS Authority for information on approval for courses offered by providers from out of state.
- K.** CoSD EMS maintains the authority to approve continuing education activities, which may exceed the scope of the *Continuing Education Handbook for EMS Personnel* published by CoSD EMS. Any such determination by CoSD EMS is solely at its discretion.