

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

SUBJECT: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse
Authorization/Reauthorization

POLICY NO: P-303
PAGE: 1 of 5
DATE: July 1, 2018

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.56, 1797.212, 1797.214,
and 1798.2.
California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Sections 100168-100177.

I. PURPOSE

To define the process of Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) authorization and reauthorization

II. BACKGROUND

A. Overview: Authorization is granted on an ongoing basis, following successful orientation and training on County of San Diego EMS (CoSD EMS) policies, procedures, and scope of practice.

B. Definitions

Authorization: Authorization by the Medical Director of the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to perform as a Mobile Intensive Care Nurse.

Base Hospital: Hospital responsible for directing the advanced life support system and prehospital care system, assigned to it by the local EMS agency.

Continuous Authorization: Authorization shall be continuous as long as licensure is maintained and the local EMS agency requirements are met.

Mobile Intensive Care Nurse: A State of California licensed Registered Nurse authorized by the CoSD EMS Medical Director to provide prehospital medical control within the county.

Chapter: COUNTY Of SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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POLICY NO: P-303
PAGE: 2 of 5
DATE: July 1, 2018

Authorization is granted to applicants with demonstrated knowledge and proficiency in CoSD policies, procedures, protocols, and standards of care governing treatment, transfer, and triage in the prehospital field.

Reauthorization:

Renewal of authorization when there has been a lapse in California State Licensure and/or local EMS agency authorization greater than 90 days.

III. POLICY

To become authorized as an MICN in San Diego County, the following requirements must be met:

A. Initial authorization process

1. The candidate for initial authorization must:
 - a. Be a Registered Nurse currently licensed in the State of California
 - b. Possess a current Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) course completion card
 - c. Have received instruction in the following subjects pertinent to the MICN role (recommended minimum 30 hours of training):
 - 1) The MICN in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system
 - 2) Field assessment and reporting
 - 3) Shock
 - 4) Pharmacology
 - 5) Respiratory emergencies
 - 6) Cardiac emergencies
 - 7) Neurological emergencies
 - 8) Soft tissue emergencies
 - 9) Musculoskeletal emergencies
 - 10) Other medical emergencies

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

SUBJECT: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse
Authorization/Reauthorization

POLICY NO: P-303
PAGE: 3 of 5
DATE: July 1, 2018

- 11) Obstetric emergencies
 - 12) Pediatric emergencies
 - 13) Geriatric emergencies
 - 14) Behavioral emergencies
 - 15) Multiple trauma and triage
 - 16) San Diego County Policies, Procedures, and Protocols
- d. Complete and submit proof of an internship consisting of:
- 1) A Base Hospital orientation which includes the observation of paramedic functions on a minimum of three paramedic responses which demonstrate Advanced Life Support (ALS) skills.
 - 2) Observation of medical direction of patient care via direct voice communication with field personnel by an MICN/Base Hospital Physician for a minimum of ten paramedic calls under the supervision of the Base Hospital Nurse Coordinator or designee.
- e. Successfully pass the MICN authorization examination, by predetermined standards, approved by the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director. If unsuccessful, the candidate may repeat the exam twice. If unsuccessful after three test sessions, the candidate must complete a remedial course of instruction prior to retest; and
- f. Submit an application form containing a statement that the individual is not precluded from authorization for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code, proof of internship, documentation of successful completion of MICN exam, and the established fee for testing and/or authorization.
2. Authorization period as an MICN shall be effective for two years from the last day of the month in which all requirements are completed and the certification was issued.
 3. Applications deemed to be factually incorrect or intentionally misleading shall be denied, accreditation suspended, or other discipline in line with CoSD policy and state guidelines

Chapter: COUNTY Of SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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SUBJECT: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse
Authorization/Reauthorization

POLICY NO: P-303
PAGE: 4 of 5
DATE: July 1, 2018

B. Certificate by Challenge

To be eligible for MICN certification by challenge, an individual who possess a current MICN certification from a California local EMS agency (LEMSA), and chooses to forego the San Diego MICN course must meet the requirements specified under Authorization Process (III.A.1.a. through f.) in addition to providing current documentation of MICN certification. MICN challenging certification must be employed by a San Diego County Base Hospital.

C. Renewal & Reauthorization Process

1. Authorization to practice shall be continuous as long as CoSD EMS and Base Hospital requirements are met. These requirements are as follows:
 - a. Submit a completed CoSD EMS renewal.
 - b. Confirm attendance of 24 hours of multi-disciplinary prehospital continuing education, approved by a base hospital or CoSD EMS, every two years. Documentation for this education is maintained by the Base Hospital.
 - c. For authorized MICNs that are not associated with a Base Hospital, CE requirements may be met by providing documentation of attendance of 24 hours of multi-disciplinary prehospital continuing education, approved by a Base Hospital or CoSD EMS, every two years. The course objectives for these courses shall be directly related to the MICN role. Course content may include, but is not limited to, case-based presentations, trends in prehospital care, protocol and policy review, and current concepts in prehospital care. Participation in courses with nationally standardized curricula, such as Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professions (PEPP), Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC), and online continuing education classes do not qualify for MICN reauthorization credit.
2. Individuals whose MICN authorization has lapsed shall be eligible for reauthorization upon completion of the following:
 - a. For a lapse of less than 90 days, the applicant must meet the requirements of Section III.A.1.a. and b. of this policy.

Chapter: COUNTY Of SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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SUBJECT: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse
Authorization/Reauthorization

POLICY NO: P-303
PAGE: 5 of 5
DATE: July 1, 2018

- b. For a lapse greater than 90 days, but less than one year, the applicant must additionally meet the requirements of Section III.A.1.d.2 of this policy.
- c. For a lapse of greater than one year, the applicant must additionally meet the requirement in Section III.A.1.e. of this policy.
3. CoSD EMS reserves the right to require periodic mandatory training on new skills, protocols, and policies, or remedial training as a condition of continued authorization.
4. CoSD EMS reserves the right to deny, suspend, withdraw, or retract authorization pending resolution of disciplinary issues in accordance with local policy.