



PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION FIELD EVALUATION CRITERIA

PURPOSE

To provide a guideline for the development of field evaluation criteria for initial Paramedic accreditation processes to ensure that all accredited Paramedics in the Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency (YEMSA) Region understand and can utilize the treatment protocols.

DEFINITION

“Accreditation” or “local accreditation” or “accreditation to practice”: means authorized by YEMSA to practice as a Paramedic within Yolo County. Such authorization indicates that the Paramedic has completed the requirements of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4. **“Accrediting Paramedic” or “applicant”** refers to an individual who has applied for and is in process of accrediting for Paramedic licensure.

FIVE (5) CALL EVALUATION

YEMSA requires evaluation of an accrediting Paramedic when performing five (5) consecutive Advanced Life Support (ALS) patient contact calls with an approved Field Training Officer (FTO). At the end of the field evaluation, all forms, FTO summary evaluations, and Patient Care Reports (PCRs) will be sent to the YEMSA Field Training Officer Accreditation Coordinator to begin the evaluation process.

ALS CONTACT CRITERIA

All ALS calls must be performed under the guidance of a YEMSA approved preceptor/evaluator (i.e. FTO). YEMSA will only count ALS calls for which a Paramedic assessed a patient and initiated direct ALS intervention(s). An ALS contact means that two (2) or more of the following skills are performed on any one (1) patient:

- Starting an IV/IO
- Administering medication(s) (not including O₂)
- Placing an advanced airway with CO₂ Monitoring
- Placing an NG or OG tube
- Performing defibrillation, cardioversion, and/or transcutaneous pacing
- Extracting a foreign body from the airway
- Performing a needle thoracostomy
- Treating and transporting a stroke activated patient
- Performing a 12-Lead ECG

No more than two (2) ALS contacts with the same combination of skills performed may be submitted for the same patient chief complaint.

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine whether the Paramedic is competent to begin functioning under local policies and protocols.



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Patient contacts that do not result in direct ALS interventions will not be counted towards the required total. Interfacility transfer and mutual aid calls for which the Paramedic adheres to YEMSA policies and protocols will count towards a contact. Calls for which a Paramedic only applies monitoring devices such as electrocardiogram (ECG) and pulse oximetry will not count towards the total. Blood glucose determination, though an ALS skill, will not count towards a contact if done without any other intervention.

REVIEW OF THE FIVE (5) CALL EVALUATION

After submission of the completed field accreditation evaluation, the YEMSA Field Training Officer Accreditation Coordinator will review each submitted call in detail. Each call will be evaluated for the following:

- Scene Management (scene safety, awareness, utilization of resources, decision making process)
- Clarity and Conciseness of Communication (patient, family/public, Fire Department/other agencies, FTO, hospital staff)
- Assessment/Treatment (completes primary and secondary assessment, obtains complete patient history/SAMPLE*, obtains appropriate differential diagnosis, performs appropriate treatment per protocol, performs a complete reassessment)
- Demonstrates clear understanding and adherence to YEMSA policies and protocols
- Appropriate and thorough documentation of patient care on the PCR

Each ALS call will be reviewed in the context of the competencies described above, the FTO summary report, and any additional information requested from the applicant by YEMSA. Each competency will be evaluated using the following criteria: acceptable, borderline, and unacceptable. A summary of the accrediting Paramedic's performance will be included defining whether or not the Paramedic is determined to be safe and knowledgeable to begin functioning under local policies and procedures. At the discretion of YEMSA, the accrediting Paramedic may be requested to discuss the evaluation over the telephone or in person. Applicants will be notified of Pass/Fail status by formal letter. Notification will be sent to the applicant via email and postal address on file with YEMSA. A duplicate letter will also be sent to the applicant's agency of employment. In the event the accrediting Paramedic fails the evaluation process, they may be offered an extension of the Five (5) Call process.

EXTENSION OF THE FIVE (5) CALL EVALUATION

The purpose of the field evaluation is to determine if the Paramedic is safe and knowledgeable to begin functioning under the local policies and procedures. A designation of Pass/Fail will be determined by the Accreditation Coordinator using their professional judgment. The YEMSA Medical Director will evaluate any candidate who does not successfully complete the field evaluation.

If the accrediting Paramedic fails an ALS call review, the YEMSA Field Training Officer Accreditation Coordinator may extend the field evaluation process for an additional five (5) consecutive ALS calls, for a total of ten (10), when deemed appropriate. This would occur when the Coordinator determines that more time is needed to determine if the Paramedic meets the passing standards. During this extension, the YEMSA Field Training Officer Accreditation Coordinator may attend a shift with the Paramedic to observe and evaluate his/her



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performance. If the accrediting Paramedic fails one (1) or more calls during the extension period, further evaluation will be provided by the YEMSA Medical Director. If the Paramedic does not meet the passing requirements during this phase, he/she will not be accredited with YEMSA as a field Paramedic.

*SAMPLE is a mnemonic that stands for:

- **S**igns/Symptoms (Symptoms are important but they are subjective.)
- **A**llergies
- **M**edications
- **P**ast Illnesses
- **L**ast Oral Intake (Sometimes also Last Menstrual Cycle.)
- **E**vents Leading Up To Present Illness/Injury