

POLICY #351: MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE REAUTHORIZATION

I. PURPOSE

- A. To establish criteria for the reauthorization of Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICN) in the County of San Luis Obispo (SLO).

II. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all California licensed Registered Nurses, who work in the Emergency Department (ED) of a Base Hospital in the County of SLO, wishing to obtain reauthorization as an MICN.

III. POLICY

- A. A current and valid California Registered Nurse license and local authorization are required to practice as an MICN in the County of SLO.
- B. Only MICNs with a current authorization may represent themselves as an MICN. Individuals not currently authorized as an MICN who represent themselves as such may be subject to discipline as outlined in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency Policy# 300: Investigation and Disciplinary Process.
- C. Candidates for reauthorization must apply to the EMS Agency in person, by mail, fax or E-mail, and pay the non-refundable application fee.
- D. Candidates whose checks return for insufficient funds may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in EMS Agency Policy# 101: Fee Collection.
- E. All information on the EMS Agency application is subject to verification. Candidates who supply information found to be fraudulent will be subject to the disciplinary process outlined in EMS Agency Policy# 300: Investigation and Disciplinary Process.
- F. Based on the continuous quality improvement process the employer or EMS Agency Medical Director may determine that a MICN needs additional training, observation or testing. The employer, the EMS Agency Medical Director or his/her designee, may create a specific and targeted program of remediation based upon the identified need of the MICN. If there is disagreement between the MICN, the employer and/or the EMS Agency Medical Director, the decision of the EMS Agency Medical Director will prevail.
- G. If the individual fails to complete this targeted program of remediation the EMS Agency Medical Director may suspend or revoke the authorization for a minimum of one (1) year and up to two (2) years.
- H. As a condition of continued authorization, MICN must attend and pass all mandated training as may be required from time to time by the EMS Agency.

- I. It is the responsibility of the MICN to notify the EMS Agency within 7 days of any arrest or change in their eligibility status. Failure to report such actions may result in disciplinary action.
- J. The EMS Agency Medical Director must approve exception to any reauthorization requirements.
- K. Reauthorization candidates must complete the following before applying for reauthorization:
 1. EMS Agency MICN Reauthorization Course or completion of the didactic portion of the EMS Agency Advanced Protocol Review course and pass the MICN written examination with a minimum passing score of 80%. The course instructor will evaluate any candidate who fails to complete the testing and evaluation process and recommend to the EMS Agency Medical Director further evaluation or training, as required.
 2. A combined total of 12 hours of continuing education (CE) during the 24-month period preceding reauthorization by attending a minimum of six (6) County of SLO Base Hospital meetings. The following options or combination of, will meet the remaining six (6) hour requirement.
 - a. Ride time with an advanced life support (ALS) transporting agency field training officer (FTO) or other EMS Agency approved evaluator, utilizing the EMS Agency Ride Time Form – Attachment B. Each hour of ride time equals one base hospital meeting credit.
 - b. EMS Agency pre-approved CE courses that review prehospital/base station issues. A list of approved courses is available from the EMS Agency. Each CE course equals one base hospital meeting.
 - c. Attend an additional six (6) base hospital meetings.
- L. Currently authorized MICNs returning to a Base Hospital ED after an absence greater than 3 months must receive an update from the Paramedic Liaison Nurse reviewing radio usage and any changes to EMS Agency policies, procedures, or protocols.
- M. In order to be eligible for reauthorization after a lapse in authorization, the following criteria must be met.
 1. An individual whose authorization has a lapse of less than six (6) months must comply with the criteria in Section I of this policy.
 2. An individual whose authorization has a lapse of six (6) months but less than twelve (12) months: must comply with the criteria in Section I of this policy and six (6) hours of field observation time accompanying a FTO or other EMS Agency approved evaluator, on an ALS Ambulance – Attachment B.
 3. An individual whose authorization has a lapse of twelve (12) month but less than twenty-four (24) months must comply with the criteria in Section I of this policy and twelve (12) hours of field observation time accompanying a FTO, or other EMS Agency approved evaluator, on an ALS Ambulance – Attachment B.

4. An individual whose authorization has a lapse of greater than twenty-four (24) months must complete the initial authorization process as outlined in the EMS Agency Policy# 350: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Initial Authorization.
- N. Reauthorization candidates must leave sufficient time to reauthorize. The County of SLO EMS Agency requires up to fourteen (14) calendar days to process applications.
- O. The effective date of authorization will be the date the candidate meets all local requirements as demonstrated to the EMS Agency.
- P. The authorization will expire:
 1. Two years from the completion date of the MICN reauthorization course, or
 2. On the date, the MICN no longer meets authorization requirements.
- Q. If requirements are not met prior to the expiration date, MICN authorization will be suspended and the candidate may not perform the functions of an MICN until all requirements are met.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. A candidate for MICN reauthorization in the County of SLO must complete the EMS Agency application – Attachment A and supply documentation establishing eligibility for reauthorization as follows:
 1. Current and valid California Registered Nurse license
 2. Proof of current certification as a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Provider according to the professional rescuers standards of the American Heart Association or other course provider approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
 3. Proof of current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider certification issued by the American Heart Association or other course approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
 4. Letter of employment from a County of SLO Base Hospital confirming current employment in their ED and a minimum of one (1) year experience in ED nursing.
 5. Proof of MICN Reauthorization course or Advanced Protocol Review course completion.
 6. An affidavit attesting to twelve (12) hours of CE in the preceding two-year authorization period as outlined in Section I of this policy.
 7. Pay the established non-refundable authorization fee

V. AUTHORITY

- Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 2, Section 1797.56; Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 1797.175; Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 1797.210; and Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 1797.213(a)

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. MICN Authorization Application Form
- B. Ride Time Form