

ANNA M. ROTH, RN, MS, MPH  
HEALTH DIRECTOR

RANDALL L. SAWYER  
DEPUTY HEALTH DIRECTOR

DAVID GOLDSTEIN, MD  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR & INTERIM DIRECTOR EMS  
DEPUTY COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER



CONTRA COSTA  
HEALTH SERVICES  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

777 Arnold Drive, Suite 110  
Martinez, CA 94553-3642


Phone: (925) 608-5454

## ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

No. 20-BUL-004

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**TO:** Contra Costa County EMS Service Providers, EMD Dispatch Managers, Hospital ED Managers

**FROM:** Dr. David Goldstein, EMS Medical Director 

**DATE:** March 20, 2020

**SUBJECT: PROVIDER AUXILIARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATION EXPIRATIONS**

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The Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Agency (“Agency”) has received requests to recognize the American Heart Association’s (“AHA”) guidance dated March 13, 2020, to temporarily extend recognition of valid certification cards expiring during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Depending on the function(s) of personnel in various roles, employed by various organizations, and the level of service being practiced, personnel working in the Contra Costa County EMS system are required to maintain additional auxiliary education certifications. These requirements are specified in Agency policy and in Agency contracts with various organizations operating in the county. The Contra Costa County EMS system requires auxiliary education certifications that include the following:

- AHA BLS “CPR”
- AHA PALS
- AHA ACLS
- PEPP
- PHTLS/ITLS
- IAED CERTIFICATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, effective immediately, the Agency is suspending the requirement for all personnel working in the Contra Costa County EMS system to maintain current auxiliary education certification(s), listed above, through June 30, 2020. Once training is available, personnel should immediately obtain training to bring their auxiliary certification from a lapsed status to current status.

As of today, there has been no relief for EMT certification requirements, or Paramedic licensing requirements by State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority (“EMSA”). This administrative bulletin does not change or address any of the EMSA regulation regarding certification and licensing.

## **SPECIFIC PROCESSES & PROGRAMS**

### **I. EMPLOYERS**

- a. The Agency continues to expect organizations to be vigilant in the record management of personnel especially, during these historic times in which we are operating. Organizations should continue to utilize their normal internal processes to track personnel certifications and licensure status including, lapsed status.

### **II. AGENCY EMS ORIENTATION – CCEMSA POLICY 2007**

- a. Effective immediately, the Agency has suspended the requirement for participants to submit a valid AHA CPR card as a pre-requisite to enroll in the Agency EMS Orientation through June 30, 2020.

*NOTE: Due to technology and time constraints the online application will still ask for the participant to submit the AHA CPR card, but this is NOT required.*

### **III. PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION – CCEMSA POLICY 2002**

- a. The Agency continues to require that the Paramedic and the Relevant Employer complete initial and maintain accreditation applications.
  - i. If a Paramedic has lapsed auxiliary education certification(s), the lapsed certification expiration date(s) should be documented in the application by the Paramedic.
  - ii. For accreditation applications with lapsed auxiliary education certification(s), employers should document “No”, on the employer verification form when verifying the auxiliary education certification expiration dates. The Agency will process the accreditation application and set an expiration date of June 30, 2020.
  - iii. If the Paramedic has current auxiliary education certifications, then the application will be processed normally.

### **IV. PARAMEDIC INTERN AUTHORIZATION – CCEMSA POLICY 2006**

- a. The Agency continues to require that the Paramedic Intern follow the normal application process.
  - i. For lapsed auxiliary education certification the lapsed certification(s) should be submitted with the application following the normal process. The Agency will process the Paramedic Intern application and set an expiration date of June 30, 2020.
  - ii. If the Paramedic Intern has current auxiliary education certifications, then the application will be processed normally.

### **V. MICN AUTHORIZATION – CCEMSA POLICY 2003**

- a. The Agency continues to require that the MICN and Relevant Employer complete initial and maintain authorization applications.



- i. If a MICN has lapsed auxiliary education certification(s), the lapsed certification expiration date(s) should be documented in the application by the MICN.
- ii. For MICN authorization applications with lapsed auxiliary education certification(s), employers should document “No”, on the employer verification form when verifying the auxiliary education certification expiration dates. The Agency will process the authorization application and set an expiration date of June 30, 2020.
- iii. If the MICN has current auxiliary education certifications, then the application will be processed normally.

**VI. IAED CERTIFICATION – CCEMSA POLICY 3002**

- a. Effective immediately, the Agency has suspended the requirement for Emergency Medical Dispatch (“EMD”) center personnel interrogating callers to be currently certified by the IAED through June 30, 2020.

**VII. PUBLIC SAFETY AED INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS – CCEMSA POLICY 4001**

- a. Effective immediately, the Agency has suspended the requirement for personnel authorized as an instructor to maintain a current instructor certification by AHA through June 30, 2020.

