



Division 05 **Emergency Medical**

Chapter 03 - EMS Provider County Certification/ Decertification

February 2009

POLICY

To practice as an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provider within Prince George's County this General Order will outline the minimum requirements needed in order to obtain and maintain certification/ licensure.

Also, the applicability to the requirements established in the Prince George's County Code as amended by Subtitle 11, and the Code of Maryland Regulations, (COMAR), Subtitle 30.

DEFINITIONS

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Provider - A State of Maryland licensed Paramedic or Cardiac Rescue Technician

Intern - An ALS Provider enrolled in the ALS Internship process.

Advanced Life Support Equipped Unit - Any unit in the Fire/EMS Department equipped with ALS equipment. Examples include but are not limited to: Paramedic Engine Companies, Paramedic/Ambulances, EMS Field Supervisory positions, and Medic Units.

Affiliation: Requirement that all EMS providers must function under the authority of an EMS operational program

Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider - A State of Maryland certification as a First Responder (FR) and/or Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B).

Annotated Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Title 30 - State regulations that reference EMS requirements within the State of Maryland.

Disaffiliation: EMS provider is no longer permitted to operate under the authority of an EMS operational program.

First Responder (FR) – BLS certification that is required as a minimum to provide emergency medical care in the State of Maryland. All operational members must have EMT-B certification who became member after June 1996 (CB82-1994).

Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B) – BLS certification that is required by the State of Maryland to provide basic life support care.

Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) - ALS certification as issued by the NREMT, equivalent to State of Maryland Cardiac Rescue Technician level of licensure.

Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P): Highest level of NREMT ALS certification, State of Maryland licensed ALS provider.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) - Accredited testing and certification organization.

Medical Director - Medical doctor that provides oversight of patient care for the departments Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Emergency Medical Dispatcher



(EMD) operational program, in accordance with COMAR 30.03.03.

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) - State agency that oversees EMS delivery of service.

Bureau Chief of Fire/EMS Advanced Emergency Medical Services - Major or designee assigned to the Office of Advanced Emergency Medical Services (AEMS).

Bureau Chief Fire/EMS of Training Academy - Major or designee assigned to the Fire/EMS Training Academy (FETA).

Advanced Life Support Training Coordinator - Individual designated to oversee ALS training/ licensure for all departmental personnel.

County Certified ALS Provider - ALS Provider that has successfully completed the ALS internship process as required by medical director.

PROCEDURES

1. General Provisions

Adherence

Oversight of all EMS certification, recertification, and decertification of providers will be the primary responsibility of the Medical Director and the Bureau Chief Fire/EMS of Training Academy.

Personnel who wish to provide EMS care in Prince George's County shall meet specific requirements prior to approval being granted by the Medical Director to practice EMS care under his/her license.

Affiliation

All EMS providers are required to have an affiliation with the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. These requirements will be determined by the Medical Director and the Bureau Chief of the Fire/EMS Training Academy.

Additionally, all volunteer members will need to be affiliated with the specific volunteer department in which they are members. Any change in membership/affiliation will need to be made to MIEMSS within 30 days (COMAR 30.02.02.06).

Requirements for consideration:

BLS Providers

- Current State of Maryland certification as a FR or EMT-B.

ALS Providers

- Current NREMT certification as EMT-I or EMT-P.
- State of Maryland licensed ALS provider.
- Affiliated with the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department as required by COMAR 30.02.02.03.

** For those personnel not licensed as an EMS provider in the State of Maryland, they will be required to apply for certification/licensure. This process will be done through the Bureau Chief Fire/EMS of Training Academy and/or their designee in accordance with COMAR30.02.02.

ALS County Certification

Once an ALS provider has met these minimum requirements and is approved by the Medical Director, or designee, the Office of AEMS will be notified for placement of



personnel into the Fire/EMS Department ALS Internship process.

Oversight of the Intern process will be the responsibility of the Bureau Chief of the Fire/EMS Training Academy or his/her designee

Administration of the Intern process will be maintained and monitored by the Bureau Chief of AEMS or his/her designee.

After successful completion of ALS Internship process, ALS providers will be approved to operate within the specific scope of care as defined within COMAR 30.02.03.

The ALS Training Coordinator will be required to maintain a current list of all county certified ALS providers and ensure that ALS specialty coding in TeleStaff is current.

ALS providers affiliated with Prince George's County shall be actively involved in the delivery of ALS service in accordance with the NREMT and COMAR Title 30.

Minimum Competency Requirements

BLS Providers

Maintain affiliation requirements as listed above.

ALS Providers

To fulfill the affiliation requirement, all ALS providers will meet the following requirements:

- Complete 4 hours of ALS Annual Skills training.
- Complete a minimum of **24 hours** on an approved ALS equipped unit within Prince George's County.

- This hourly requirement shall be completed for each quarter of the calendar year.
- This hourly requirement shall normally be fulfilled during regular work hours.
- No Overtime compensation will be paid to exclusively fulfill these requirements (including back filling of position).
- Detailing of personnel to meet this requirement will be at the discretion of the supervisor.

Verification of these requirements will be completed by the ALS Training Coordinator and reviewed by the Medical Director during the bi-annual NREMT recertification interview. Methods of verification will be made through the Telestaff™ management system and the Annual Skills class rosters (Maintained in accordance with the MIEMSS accreditation agreement).

Exclusions to ALS Requirements

Exclusions to this policy include those personnel in the rank of Battalion Chief and above. These personnel are considered management, thus are excluded from the requirements set forth by the Medical Director.

Personnel that are on extended light duty & sick leave, FMLA, or IOJ will be exempt for the duration of absence.

Under certain extenuating circumstances, a provider may not be able to comply with the requirements set forth in this order. In these cases, a waiver may be submitted through the provider's chain of command to the Bureau Chief of the AEMS. This waiver will include the specified period of time for exemption.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

Once approved, the waiver will be maintained by the ALS Training Coordinator for tracking and notification to the Medical Director.

Additionally, any County Certified ALS provider not meeting the *Minimum Competency Requirements* shall be:

- Reclassified as an ALS Intern with notification of this action made to the Bureau Chief of AEMS and the County Medical Director.
 - ALS Providers not in compliance will be required to successfully complete all phases of the County ALS Intern certification process.
- Referred for disciplinary action in accordance with County Personnel law and General Order 11-04 (Career Disciplinary Process).

ALS providers that have been granted exceptions to this order for over one year will be required to:

- Have a Maryland state protocol review class provided by FETA.
- Have a skills competency assessment completed by FETA.
- Interview with County Medical Director.

Recertification

Personnel are responsible for being aware of when their current certification expires and the procedures in which to follow for recertification as required by COMAR Title 30.

Decertification

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and/or the Medical Director may disaffiliate personnel who do not meet the

requirements set forth by MIEMSS, COMAR, Title 30, or the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department.

Volunteers who do not meet membership requirements for their company may also be disaffiliated.

If disaffiliated, the individual may not ride apparatus or represent themselves as an EMS provider within Prince George's County.

Any EMS provider decertified or that has license revoked will be referred through the chain of command for disciplinary action in accordance with County Personnel law and applicable General Orders.

REFERENCES

CB-82-1994

Code of Maryland Annotated Regulations (COMAR)- Title 30.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) policies and procedures

Career Service Directive #54- Career Disciplinary Process

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

Career and Volunteer Paramedic Certification Chart

CAREER AND VOLUNTEER PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION CHART

Entering County as a Recent Graduate or a non-Maryland EMT-P <u>NEW</u>	Entering County with a Maryland EMT-P License <u>TRANSFER</u>	County Paramedic <u>INTERN</u>	County Certified <u>PARAMEDIC</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Must be currently certified as an NREMT-P prior to beginning this process ➤ Complete an application ➤ Participate in a review of the paramedic training completed to ensure the current minimum standards required by the Prince George's County Paramedic Program. Complete any additional training as necessary * ➤ Complete Protocol Class ➤ Complete State Forms ➤ Successfully complete the State protocol exam and obtain State license 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Become affiliated with a Prince George's County Fire/EMS station ➤ Complete an application ➤ Complete 48 hours on Medic Unit ➤ Complete 16 hours in PGHC Emergency Dept. ➤ Complete State Forms for affiliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete Paramedic Intern Study Program ➤ Serve a minimum of 144 hours on a medic unit ➤ Serve a minimum of 90 days ➤ Pass the County intern certification written evaluation and oral interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain a minimum of 48 hours per quarter on a medic unit, completing a total of 192 hours annually ➤ Maintain NREMT-P certification and State of Maryland licensure ➤ Maintain affiliation with a Prince George's County Fire/EMS station ➤ Maintain Medical Director's approval to practice
MOVE TO COUNTY PARAMEDIC INTERN	MOVE TO COUNTY PARAMEDIC INTERN	MOVE TO COUNTY CERTIFIED PARAMEDIC	