

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

1930 9th STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-7043
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



DATE: May 25, 2010

TO: Local EMS Agency Administrators
Local EMS Agency Medical Directors

FROM: R. Steven Tharratt, MD, MPVM
Director

SUBJECT: Affect Upon Paramedic Accreditation When a County Moves From One
Local EMS Agency to Another

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you of the status of paramedic accreditation when the county in which the paramedic is working transitions from a single county EMS agency to a regional EMS agency or from a regional EMS agency to become a single county EMS agency or from one regional EMS agency to a different regional EMS agency.

Over time, there has been some movement of a single county to or from a regional EMS agency and the formation of new regional EMS agencies. Recently, however, there have been quite a number of counties moving from the jurisdiction of one regional EMS agency to another regional EMS agency. When a county makes any change in their EMS agency status, the accreditation of those paramedics working in the jurisdiction of that county become null and void. Therefore, until the paramedics working in the jurisdiction of the transitioning county are accredited by the EMS agency to which the transitioning county has moved, those paramedics are no longer able to perform advanced life support services.

Local EMS agency administrators and medical directors, therefore, need to ensure that there is a process in place for accrediting, and training in any local optional scope of practice as necessary, those paramedics transitioning into their jurisdiction. The process should be as timely as possible so as not to disrupt the advanced life support services in any affected community and to ensure that affected paramedics are not disadvantaged any longer than necessary between accreditations.

Likewise, counties considering a change in local EMS agency status should ensure that discussions on changing their status include provisions for the timely accreditation, and additional training if necessary, of their paramedics by the new local EMS agency.