

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE
(MICN) CERTIFICATION**

REFERENCE NO. 1010

PURPOSE: To outline the requirements for Los Angeles County MICN certification and recertification.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 2, Sections 1797.56, 1797.58, 1797.63 and Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 1797.175; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Sections 100168 – 100170

DEFINITIONS:

Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN): A registered nurse authorized by the Medical Director of the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency to provide prehospital advanced life support (ALS) or issue instructions to prehospital emergency personnel within an EMS system according to standardized procedures developed by the local EMS agency consistent with statewide guidelines.

Base Hospital: Hospital responsible for directing the advanced life support system and prehospital care system assigned to it by the local EMS agency.

PRINCIPLES:

1. An MICN is only certified to practice within Los Angeles County if authorized by the Medical Director of the Los Angeles County EMS Agency.
2. Recertification application with approval from sponsoring agency and all applicable documentation must be received 30 days prior to certification expiration to ensure continuous certification. Continuing education (CE) must be completed during the current certification cycle to satisfy the requirements for recertification. CE completed during the month which the current certificate expires may be applied to the next recertification application if completed as specified above.
3. In the case of lapsed certification, only CE completed within the twenty-four (24) months prior to application for recertification shall apply to meet the requirements for recertification.
4. Certification/recertification as an MICN shall be for two (2) years from the last day of the month in which all requirements are completed and the certification was issued. When recertification requirements are met prior to the expiration date, the certification date will be the first day after the expiration of the current certification cycle.
5. Upon successful completion of all certification requirements, the Los Angeles County EMS Agency shall issue an MICN certification card with the bearer's name, certification number, effective date, expiration date, and signature of the EMS Agency Medical Director.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 3-1-86

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REVISED: 03-01-14

SUPERSEDES: 5-31-11

APPROVED: _____

Director, EMS Agency.

Medical Director, EMS Agency

6. In the event that an MICN is employed by more than one approved agency, a primary sponsor must be designated. All other agencies must be designated as secondary sponsors. The EMS Agency must be notified in writing of all sponsorship changes by submitting required data on the change of status/data update form to the Office of Certification.

POLICY:

I. INITIAL CERTIFICATION

A. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for MICN certification, an individual shall:

1. Be employed and sponsored by one of the following agencies approved to utilize MICNs in Los Angeles County:
 - a. Base hospital
 - b. EMS Agency
 - c. Paramedic training program
 - d. Paramedic provider agency
2. Meet the following professional licensure and experience requirements:
 - a. Licensed as a registered nurse in the United States for a period of not less than one (1) year and currently licensed in California.
 - b. Employment equivalent to one (1) year full-time (36-40 hrs/week) within the last three (3) years as a RN in a critical care area; six (6) months of which must be in the emergency department of an acute care hospital.
 - c. Current American Heart Association (AHA) certification as an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider or instructor.
3. Complete an approved Los Angeles County MICN Development Course.
4. Complete a minimum of eight (8) hours field observation with a Los Angeles County ALS unit, and observe and document at least one (1) ALS patient assessment with a base hospital contact.

B. Application Process

The MICN candidate shall submit the following:

1. A completed Los Angeles County EMS Agency MICN Application and the established fee.

NOTE: Cancellation of the certification process prior to the examination must be submitted in writing to the Office of Certification. A processing fee

will be charged and the balance of the certification fee will be refunded. No refunds will be issued once the examination process has begun.

2. A Letter of Recommendation signed by the sponsoring facility/agency medical director, department supervisor and prehospital care coordinator or equivalent.
3. Documentation of a valid California registered nurse license.
4. Documentation of current AHA certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.
5. Documentation of MICN Candidate Field Observation.
6. Copy of MICN Development Course completion certificate.

C. Examination Process

All professional licensure and experience requirements must be met prior to the candidate taking the MICN certification examination. Certification application and documentation must be received at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled examination. Upon receipt of all required documents, the MICN candidate must pass the certifying examination within one (1) year of completing the MICN Development Course.

1. The MICN certification examination topics covered by percentage include:
 - a. Basic sciences 5%
 - b. Basic and advanced life support 10%
 - c. Medical emergencies 25%
 - d. Trauma 15%
 - e. Special patient situations including pediatrics, obstetrics and geriatrics 15%
 - f. Legal aspects including Los Angeles County Prehospital Care Policies and Medical Control Guidelines 30%
2. A candidate who fails the MICN certification examination may retake the examination one time only. Retake exams may be taken after seven (7) days but within thirty (30) days of the initial exam. Failure to appear for the examination will be considered as an examination failure for purposes of retesting.
3. A candidate who fails the retake examination must repeat the entire certification process which includes repeating the MICN Development Course.

D. Radio Internship

Upon successful completion of the MICN certification examination, the MICN candidate must complete a radio internship within six (6) months. A radio internship consists of a minimum of ten (10) base hospital ALS runs under the direct supervision of a certified MICN or base hospital physician.

1. Radio internship requires a minimum of one (1) ALS run in each of the following categories:
 - a. Altered level of consciousness
 - b. Respiratory distress
 - c. Trauma
 - d. Cardiac related complaint
 - e. Pediatric
 - f. Medical cardiac arrest

NOTE: If after fifteen (15) satisfactory ALS runs, the candidate has not met all category requirements, one (1) ALS run category may be simulated.

2. A performance evaluation will be completed for each ALS run or simulation and a final written Radio Internship Evaluation based on the Los Angeles County Performance Evaluation Standards must be completed and submitted to the Office of Certification.
3. The prehospital care coordinator shall submit a letter of explanation when the MICN candidate fails to complete the radio internship within six (6) months of the certification examination. If an extension is requested, the projected date of completion must be stated. Extensions may only be granted after review by the Office of Prehospital Certification. In no case may the radio internship exceed one (1) year from the date of the certification examination.
4. An MICN candidate failing to meet the radio internship requirements will be eligible for certification only after successfully repeating the entire certification process, which includes repeating the MICN Development Course.

II. CERTIFICATION BY CHALLENGE

A. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for MICN certification by challenge, an individual who possesses a current MICN certificate from an EMS agency within California or whose California MICN certificate has not lapsed for more than one (1) year must:

1. Be licensed as a registered nurse in California.

2. Be employed and sponsored by one of the agencies approved to utilize MICNs in Los Angeles County as specified in Section I.A.1 of this Reference.
3. Have current AHA certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.
4. Complete a minimum of eight (8) hours field observation with a Los Angeles County ALS unit and observe and document at least one (1) ALS patient assessment with a base hospital contact.

B. Application Process

The MICN challenge candidate must submit the following information:

1. A completed Los Angeles County EMS Agency MICN Application and the established fee.

NOTE: Cancellation of the certification process prior to the examination must be submitted in writing to the Office of Certification. A processing fee will be charged and the balance of the certification fee will be refunded. No refunds will be issued once the examination process has begun.

2. A Letter of Recommendation signed by the sponsoring facility/agency medical director, department supervisor and prehospital care coordinator or equivalent.
3. Documentation of a valid California registered nurse license.
4. Documentation of current or previous MICN certification.
5. Documentation of current AHA certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.
6. Documentation of MICN Candidate Field Observation.

C. Additional Requirement

The MICN challenge candidate must pass the Los Angeles County Paramedic Accreditation written examination prior to taking the MICN Certification Exam.

D. Examination Process

The MICN challenge candidate must pass the written certification examination as specified in Section I.C.1-3. of this Reference.

E. Radio Internship

The MICN challenge candidate must complete a radio internship as specified in Section I.D.1-4. of this Reference.

III. RECERTIFICATION

A. Eligibility Requirements for Continuous Certification

To be eligible for MICN recertification an individual shall:

1. Be certified as a Los Angeles County MICN.
2. Maintain continuous licensure as a registered nurse in California.
3. Maintain continuous AHA certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.
4. Maintain sponsorship as specified in Section I.A.1.
5. Complete a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours of EMS continuing education (CE) every two (2) years (certification cycle) in topics related to emergency and prehospital care to include:
 - a. Field Care Audits - review of base hospital audio tapes and/or written patient care records totaling a minimum of twelve (12) hours
 - b. Structured Field Experience - field observation totaling a minimum of four (4) hours which must be documented on a MICN Recertification Field Observation CE Documentation form (Los Angeles County EMS Continuing Education Program Manual)

NOTE: Total field observation hours credit may not exceed eight (8) hours during the same certification cycle.

- c. Restricted CE - A maximum of fifty percent (50%) of required continuing education hours can be issued to an individual per certification cycle as follows:
 - i. Teaching an approved CE course, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic training program or MICN Development course
 - ii. Clinical precepting of EMS personnel
 - iii. Courses related to indirect patient care or medical operations
 - iv. Media-based/serial productions that are not instructor based

Credit may be received for attending the same educational session **no more than twice** during the same certification cycle.

NOTE: Employers sponsoring an MICN may further restrict continuing education hours in specific categories to meet their requirements for a recertification candidate.

6. Complete all mandatory Los Angeles County EMS programs.
7. Submit the following at least 30 days prior to certification expiration date:
 - a. Completed Los Angeles County EMS Agency MICN Application

with the established fee

b. Completed MICN Statement of Continuing Education

It is not the responsibility of the CE provider to maintain documentation of an individual's continuing education hours, but the responsibility of each recertification candidate to maintain his/her own hours for recertification.

B. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Less Than Six (6) Months

To be eligible for MICN recertification, an individual shall:

1. Meet all recertification requirements specified in Section III.A.1-7. of this Reference.
2. Complete an additional four (4) hours of Field Care Audits totaling a minimum of sixteen (16) hours for an overall total of fifty-two (52) hours of EMS CE.

C. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Six (6) Months or More, But Less Than Twelve (12) Months

To be eligible for MICN recertification, an individual shall:

1. Meet all recertification requirements specified in Section III.A.1-7. of this Reference.
2. Complete an additional twelve (12) hours of CE, four (4) hours must be additional Field Care Audits totaling a minimum of sixteen (16) hours for an overall total of sixty (60) hours.
3. Pass the Los Angeles County Paramedic Accreditation written examination.
4. Complete a radio internship as specified in Section I.D.1-4. of this Reference.

D. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Twelve (12) Months or More, But Less Than Twenty-four (24) Months

To be eligible for MICN recertification, an individual shall:

1. Meet all recertification requirements specified in Section III.A.1-7. of this Reference.
2. Complete an additional twelve (12) hours of CE, four (4) hours must be additional Field Care Audits totaling a minimum of sixteen (16) hours for an overall total of sixty (60) hours.
3. Pass the Los Angeles County Paramedic Accreditation written examination.

4. Pass the MICN certification examination as specified in Section I.C.1-3. of this Reference.
5. Complete a radio internship as specified in Section I.D.1-4. of this Reference.

E. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Twenty-four (24) Months or More

To be eligible for MICN recertification, an individual shall meet all initial certification requirements specified in Section I.A-D. of this Reference.

F. Eligibility Requirements for Recertification of Reservists Deployed for Active Duty

An individual who is a member of the reserves and is deployed for active duty with a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, whose Los Angeles County MICN certificate expires during the time the individual is on active duty or less than six (6) months from the date the individual is deactivated/released from active duty, may be given an extension of the renewal of the individual's MICN certificate for up to six (6) months from the date of the individual's deactivation/release from active duty in order to meet the renewal requirements for the individual's MICN certificate upon compliance with the following provisions:

1. Provide documentation from the respective branch of the Armed Forces of the United States verifying the individual's dates of activation and deactivation/release from duty.
2. Complete a Los Angeles County EMS Agency MICN Application and pay the established fee.
3. Demonstrate current holder and submit copies of:
 - a. Licensure as a Registered Nurse in California
 - b. AHA certification as an ACLS provider or instructor
 - c. Completion of all mandatory Los Angeles County EMS programs
4. Be employed and sponsored as specified in Section I.A.1.
5. Upon receipt and verification of the above items by the EMS Agency, the individual shall complete and submit the following requirements for renewal of their MICN certificate by the date specified; otherwise the individual shall complete requirements in accordance to Section III of this Reference.
 - a. Complete a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours of EMS CE as specified in Section III.A.5. and document on the MICN Statement of Continuing Education

NOTE: CE completed by the individual thirty (30) days prior to the current renewal certificate issued through the six (6) month

extension of fulfilling requirements for renewal shall be valid.

- b. Complete a radio internship as specified in Section I.D.1-4. of this Reference

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Manual:

Reference No. 1011, **Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) Field Observation**

Reference No. 1013, **EMS CE Provider Approval and Program Requirements**

Sample Letter of Recommendation

MICN Certification Application

MICN Candidate Field Observation Documentation

MICN Radio Internship Evaluation

MICN Radio Internship Performance Evaluation Standards

MICN Statement of Continuing Education

Los Angeles County EMS Continuing Education Program Manual