

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **TRIAGE TO ALTERNATE DESTINATION (TAD) PARAMEDIC TRAINING  
PROVIDER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS** REFERENCE NO. 913

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**PURPOSE:** To establish procedures for approval of Triage to Alternate Destination (TAD) Paramedic Training Program in Los Angeles County and requirements to maintain program approval.

**AUTHORITY:** California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 5, §100187, 100188, 100189, 100190,  
California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 3, Part 1, Chapter 5, §11500  
Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 13 Sections 1797.107, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1835, and 1836.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Designated TAD Facility:** A mental health (Psychiatric Urgent Care Center) or non-correctional (Sobering Center) facility approved by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency to receive patients assessed and triaged by paramedics for psychiatric care or sobering services.

**Paramedic Provider Agency:** A fire or law enforcement agency or licensed ambulance operator that meets the requirements outlined in Ref. No. 406, Authorization for Paramedic Provider Status, which includes, but not limited to: employing and sponsoring paramedics to provide ALS services; participating in EMS system programs (e.g., quality improvement); and complying with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations, and local policies, procedures, guidelines and protocols.

**TAD Paramedic:** A California licensed and Los Angeles County accredited paramedic who has completed the training requirements of an EMS Agency approved TAD Paramedic Training Program and received TAD specific accreditation.

**TAD Paramedic Provider Agency:** A paramedic provider agency authorized by the EMS Agency to participate in the TAD Program.

**TAD Paramedic Training Program :** A training program approved by the EMS Agency to provide education on triage to alternate destinations for patients requiring psychiatric care or sobering services through didactic and clinical education and competency testing.

**TAD Program:** A system-wide ALS program developed by the EMS Agency and approved by the Emergency Medical Services Authority to assess and triage patients requiring psychiatric care to designated Psychiatric Urgent Care Centers, or sobering services to designated Sobering Centers in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 5, Division 9.

**Approved CE Provider:** An individual or organization that has a valid California EMS

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EFFECTIVE: 04-01-24  
REVISED: NEW  
SUPERSEDES: NEW

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APPROVED:   
Director, EMS Agency

  
Medical Director, EMS Agency

Continuing Education Provider (CEP) number, an EMS CEP approved by another State, or a Commission on Accreditation for Pre-Hospital Continuing Education (CAPCE) provider number.

**PRINCIPLES:**

1. A Paramedic Provider Agency with an approved CE provider program in Los Angeles County are eligible to apply for approval of a TAD program.
2. Training and competency evaluation for all TAD paramedics shall meet the minimum requirement set forth by the California EMS Authority and Los Angeles County EMS Agency.
3. Instructors must have adequate training, credentials, and/or experience in educational content and methodology in order to ensure courses adequately address the educational requirements and need of personnel.

**POLICY:**

**I. TAD PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVAL:**

The EMS Agency has the primary responsibility for approving and monitoring the performance of TAD Paramedic Training Program's in Los Angeles County (LAC) to ensure compliance with local policies, state regulations, and guidelines.

**A. Approval Process:**

1. The EMS Agency shall be the approving agency for TAD Paramedic Training Program located in LAC.
2. Program approval may be granted up to four (4) years and expiration date will coincide with their existing approved CE Provider program expiration date. The approval is not transferable to another organization.
3. If the Paramedic Provider Agency relinquishes their CEP number or it is revoked, their TAD Paramedic Training Program will also need to be relinquished or is subject to revocation.

**B. TAD Paramedic Training Program Application Process:**

1. Interested TAD Paramedic Training Programs shall obtain an application packet from the EMS Agency.
2. Any approved Paramedic Provider Agency interested in training their personnel to become accredited TAD Paramedics shall submit a complete application packet to the EMS Agency. Courses cannot be offered until program approval has been granted.
3. The application packet shall contain:

- a. A complete and signed TAD Paramedic Training Program application.
  - b. A memo on program letterhead, signed by program director, requesting approval or re-approval of the TAD Paramedic Training Program.
  - c. Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of applicable licenses and certifications, and signed program staff forms for program director, medical director, and instructors.
  - d. A memo statement verifying that the course content meets the requirements contained in the current version of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) National Education Standards. Initial course length a minimum of four (4) hours and recertification course length a minimum of four (4) hours.
  - e. An outline of course objectives and Performance objectives for each skill.
  - f. The proposed location(s) and date(s) for courses.
  - g. A copy of written final competency exam with passing criteria and answer key administered by the TAD Paramedic Training Program.
  - h. A copy of attendance record or description of the on-line tracking of course completion requirements.
4. The EMS Agency shall notify the applicant within fourteen (14) days that the application was received and specify missing information, if any. Notification of approval or deficiencies with the application shall be made in writing by the EMS Agency to the requesting TAD Paramedic Training Program applicant within ninety (90) days of receiving request for approval. Failure to submit the missing information within thirty (30) calendar days shall require the applicant to resubmit an original application packet for TAD Paramedic Training Program approval.
5. The EMS Agency may deny an application for cause as specified in subsection I.C.2.
- C. Denial/Revocation/Probation of a TAD Paramedic Training Program
1. The EMS Agency may, for cause:
    - a. Deny any TAD Paramedic Training Program application.
    - b. Revoke TAD Paramedic Training Program approval.
    - c. Place a TAD Paramedic Training Program on probation.

2. Causes for these actions include, but are not limited to the Following:
  - a. Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any of the terms of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 5; the California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 13; or Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Care Policies.
  - b. Failure to correct identified deficiencies within the specified length of time after receiving written notices from the EMS Agency.
  - c. Misrepresentation of any fact by a TAD Paramedic Training Program of any required information.
3. The EMS Agency may take disciplinary action(s) on a TAD Paramedic Training Program if the EMS Agency has determined that probation, denial, or revocation is warranted. If this occurs, the proceedings shall adhere to the California Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 5, commencing with Government code Section 11500.
4. If TAD Paramedic Training Program approval is revoked, training provided after the date of action shall be invalid.
5. A TAD Paramedic Training Program is ineligible to reapply for approval following a denial or revocation for a minimum of twelve (12) months.
6. If a TAD Paramedic Training Program is placed on probation, the terms of the probation, including approval of an appropriate corrective action plan, shall be determined by the EMS Agency. During the probationary period, prior approval of all courses offered must be obtained. Course documents must be submitted to the EMS Agency at least thirty (30) days prior to each course being offered. Written notification of course approval shall be sent to the TAD Paramedic Training Program within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the request. Renewal of the TAD Paramedic Training Program approval is contingent upon completion of the probationary period.

D. Notification

1. The EMS Agency shall notify the California EMS Authority of each TAD Paramedic Training Program approved, denied, or revoked within their jurisdiction within thirty (30) days of action.

II. TAD PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM RENEWAL:

- A. A TAD Paramedic Training Program shall be renewed if the TAD Paramedic Training Program applies for renewal and demonstrates compliance with the requirements of this policy.

- B. The TAD Paramedic Training Program must submit a complete application packet for renewal sixty (60) calendar days prior to expiration date to maintain continuous TAD Paramedic Training Program approval.

III. TAD PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- A. An approved TAD Paramedic Training Program shall ensure that:
  - 1. The content of all TAD Paramedic Training Program training is relevant, enhances the practice of prehospital emergency medical care, and is related to the knowledge base or technical skills required for the scope of practice of a triage paramedic.
  - 2. All records are maintained as outlined in this policy.
  - 3. The EMS Agency is notified within thirty (30) calendar days of any request for change in training medical director, program director, instructor(s), training location address, or telephone number.
  - 4. All records are available to the EMS Agency upon request.
  - 5. The TAD Paramedic Training Program follows all policies and procedures.
- B. Individual courses are open for scheduled or unscheduled visits/educational audits by the EMS Agency.

IV. TAD PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM STAFF REQUIREMENTS:

Each TAD Paramedic Training Program shall designate a medical director, program director, and instructor(s) who meet the requirements. Nothing in this section precludes the same individual from being responsible for more than one function.

A. Medical Director

Each TAD Paramedic Training Program shall have an approved medical director that will review and approve educational content, standards, and curriculum, including training objectives and local protocols and policies for the clinical and field instruction to certify ongoing appropriateness and medical accuracy. Reviews and approves the quality of medical instruction, supervision, course instructor(s), and evaluation of the students in all areas of the program.

- 1. TAD medical director's qualifications are as follows:
  - a. Board Certified or Board eligible emergency medical physician currently licensed in California, who has experience in emergency medicine and has education in method of instruction.

B. Program Director

Each TAD Paramedic Training Program shall have an approved program director

who is an employee of the organization and has education and experience in methods, materials, and evaluation of instruction.

1. TAD program director's qualifications are as follows:
  - a. Board Certified or Board Eligible California licensed emergency medical physician, registered nurse, or paramedic.
  - b. Has knowledge or experience in Los Angeles County EMS protocols and policies.
  - c. A minimum of three (3) years academic or clinical experience in prehospital care education.
  - d. Be qualified by education and experience with at least forty (40) hours of documented teaching methodology instruction in areas related to methods, materials, and evaluation of instruction
2. The duties of the TAD program director shall include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Administration, organization, and supervision of the educational program.
  - b. In coordination with the medical director, approves the instructor(s), the development of curriculum, including instructional objectives., and all methods of evaluation.
  - c. Ensure TAD Paramedic Training Program compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 5 and other related laws.
  - d. Ensure that all course completion records include a signature verification and maintain those records in a manner consistent with this policy.
  - e. Attending the mandatory EMS Agency Orientation Program within six (6) months of approval as the program director.
  - f. Attend all mandatory TAD program updates.
  - g. Act as a liaison to the EMS Agency.

C. Instructor(s)

Each TAD Paramedic Training Program instructor shall be approved by the medical director and program director as qualified to teach the TAD curriculum. An instructor may also be the program medical director or program director.

1. Instructor qualifications are as follows:

- a. Be a physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or paramedic, who is currently certified or licensed in the State of California.
- b. Have six (6) years' experience in an allied health field, OR four (4) years of experience in an allied health field and an associate degree OR two (2) years of experience in an allied health field and a baccalaureate degree.
- c. Be knowledgeable in the course content of the U.S. DOT National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards
- d. Be able to demonstrate expertise and a minimum of two (2) years of experience within the past five (5) years in the subject matter being taught.
- e. Be qualified by education and experience with at least forty (40) hours of documented teaching methodology instruction in areas related to methods, materials, and evaluation of instruction.

V. TAD PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM CURRICULUM MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Initial training and recertification courses length are to be a minimum of four (4) hours. In addition, one (1) final comprehensive competency-based examination to test the knowledge and skills specified in this document.

1. Course content:
  - a. Screening and responding to mental health and substance use crisis intervention to be provided by a licensed physician in the emergency department of a general acute hospital.
  - b. Mental health conditions.
  - c. Assessment and treatment of intoxicated patients
  - d. The prevalence and causes of substance use disorders and associated public health impacts.
  - e. Suicide risk factors
  - f. Alcohol and substance abuse disorders
  - g. Triage and transport parameters.
  - h. Health risks and intervention in stabilizing acutely intoxicated patients
  - i. Common medical conditions and infections with presentations similar to psychosis and intoxication which require medical testing and treatment.

- j. Disease process, behavioral emergencies, and injury patterns common to those with chronic alcohol use and other substance use disorders.
- k. Los Angeles County EMS protocols and policies for triage, treatment, transport, and transfer care, of patients to an alternate destination facility.
- l. Psychiatric disorders.
- m. EMTALA laws as it pertains to psychiatric, and substance use disorder-related emergencies.
- n. Neuropharmacology.
- o. Patient consent.
- p. Patient documentation.
- q. Medical quality improvement.

VI. TAD PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM EDUCATION ATTENDANCE RECORD

- A. A TAD Paramedic Training Program Education Attendance Record must be completed for all TAD Paramedic Training Program training provided. Each student must sign an attendance record or register online in order to receive credit.
- B. The information on the TAD Paramedic Training Program Education Attendance Record must contain all the elements set forth in the TAD Paramedic Training Program application packet.
- C. Attendees shall sign in or register only for themselves. Signing for another individual is strictly prohibited and subject to action.
- D. The original TAD Paramedic Training Program Education Attendance Record shall be maintained by the program. A legible copy (unless original is requested) of the attendance records shall be submitted to the Office of Certification/Program Approvals upon request by the EMS Agency for the following:
  - 1. Any County mandated program
  - 2. Any TAD Paramedic Training Program Education Attendance Record requested by the EMS Agency

VII. TAD PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM COURSE COMPLETION CERTIFICATES  
AND DOCUMENTS

Program shall issue a tamper resistant document (method determined by the TAD Paramedic Training Program) that contains all the set forth in the TAD Paramedic

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Training Program application packet as proof of successful completion of a course within thirty (30) calendar days.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

Prehospital Care Manual:

Ref. No. 406,	<b>Authorization for Paramedic Provider Status</b>
Ref. No. 411,	<b>Provider Agency Medical Director</b>
Ref. No. 424,	<b>Triage to Alternate Destination (TAD) Paramedic Provider Program</b>
Ref. No. 526,	<b>Behavioral/Psychiatric Crisis</b>
Ref. No. 528,	<b>Intoxicated (Alcohol) Patient Destination</b>
Ref. No. 528.1,	<b>Medical Clearance Criteria Screening Tool for Sobering Center</b>
Ref. No. 602,	<b>Confidentiality of Patient Information</b>
Ref. No. 621,	<b>Notification of Personnel Change</b>
Ref. No. 621.1,	<b>Notification of Personnel Change Form Provider Agency/TAD Paramedic Training Programs</b>
Re. No. 1013,	<b>EMS Continuing Education (CE) Provider Approval and Program Requirements</b>