

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 Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (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 not used to meet the CE requirements for the current renewal.
3. CE hours for nationally recognized classes, including but not limited to, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC), Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC), and Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) will be accepted as part of the required renewal CEs based on the hours on the Board of Registered Nursing issued certificate of completion.
4. 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.
5. 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

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

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.

6. 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.
7. 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. Eligibility for MICN Certification

- A. Licensed as a registered nurse (RN) 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 hours/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) or American Red Cross (ARC) certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.

II. Initial MICN Certification

- A. Meet the professional licensure and experience requirements as specified in Section I.
- B. Be sponsored by one of the following agencies approved to utilize MICNs in Los Angeles County:
 1. Base hospital
 2. EMS Agency
 3. Paramedic training program
 4. Paramedic provider agency
- C. Complete an approved Los Angeles County MICN Development Course.
- D. 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 that results in an ALS transportation to a 9-1-1 receiving hospital and/or a base hospital contact.
- E. Application Process:

1. Completed Los Angeles County EMS Agency MICN Application and the established fee.
2. 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 RN license.
4. Documentation of current AHA/ARC certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.
5. Documentation of MICN Candidate Field Observation.
6. Copy of MICN Development Course completion certificate.

F. Certifying Examination Process

1. 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.
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.

G. 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. Neurology to include provider impressions of Altered Level of Consciousness, Seizure, or Stroke.
 - b. Respiratory to include provider impressions of Respiratory Distress or Respiratory Arrest.

- c. Trauma to include provider impressions of Crush Injury/Syndrome or Traumatic Injury that meets Trauma Center criteria or guidelines.
 - d. Cardiovascular to include provider impression of Cardiac Arrest.
 - e. Cardiovascular to include provider impressions of Cardiac Chest Pain or Cardiac Dysrhythmia.
 - f. General Medical to include provider impression of Shock or Hypotension.
 - g. Pediatric patient with any provider impression.
2. If after fifteen (15) satisfactory ALS runs, the candidate has not met all category requirements, run categories may be simulated.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. 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.

III. MICN Certification by Challenge

A. Eligibility Requirements:

1. Licensed as a RN in California.
2. Employed and sponsored by one of the agencies approved to utilize MICNs in Los Angeles County as specified in Section II.B.
3. Current AHA/ARC 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:

1. Completed Los Angeles County EMS Agency MICN Application and the established fee.
2. 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 RN license.
4. Documentation of current or previous MICN certification.
5. Documentation of current AHA/ARC certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.
6. Documentation of MICN Candidate Field Observation.

C. Examination Process

Pass the written certification examination as specified in Section II.F.1-3.

D. Radio Internship

Complete a radio internship as specified in Section II.G.1-5.

IV. Recertification

A. Eligibility Requirements for Continuous Certification

1. Certified as a Los Angeles County MICN.
2. Maintain continuous licensure as a RN in California.
3. Maintain continuous AHA/ARC certification as an ACLS provider or instructor.
4. Maintain sponsorship as specified in Section II.B.1-4.
5. Complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of EMS continuing education (CE) every two (2) years (certification cycle).

It is the responsibility of each recertification candidate to maintain documentation of his/her own continuing education hours, not the CE provider. Credit may be received **no more than twice** for attending the same educational session during the same certification cycle.

EMS CE topics related to emergency and prehospital care 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 is mandatory for new MICN candidates and at initial renewal. Following the initial renewal, field observations is optional or at the discretion of the Prehospital Care Coordinator (PCC). Field observation totaling a minimum of four (4) hours to a maximum of eight (hours), which must be documented on a MICN Recertification Field Observation CE Documentation form (Los Angeles County EMS Continuing Education Program Manual).
- c. Restricted CE - A maximum of fifty percent (50%) of required CE 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.
 - v. 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.
- B. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Less Than Six (6) Months
 - 1. Meet all recertification requirements as specified in Section IV.A.1-7.
 - 2. Complete an additional four (4) hours of Field Care Audits.
- C. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Six (6) Months or More, But Less Than Twelve (12) Months
 - 1. Meet all recertification requirements as specified in Section IV.A.1-7.
 - 2. Complete an additional twelve (12) hours of CE, four (4) hours must be additional Field Care Audits.

3. Pass the Los Angeles County MICN Accreditation written examination.
 4. Complete a radio internship as specified in Section II.G.1-5.
- D. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Twelve (12) Months or More, But Less Than Twenty-four (24) Months
1. Meet all recertification requirements as specified in Section IV.A.1-7.
 2. Complete an additional twelve (12) hours of CE, four (4) hours must be additional Field Care Audits.
 3. Pass the MICN certification examination as specified in Section II.F.1-3.
 4. Complete a radio internship as specified in Section II.G.1-5.
- E. Eligibility Requirements for Certification Lapse of Twenty-four (24) Months or More
- Candidate is no longer eligible for recertification. Individual shall meet all initial certification requirements as specified in Section II.A-G.
- 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 RN in California
 - b. AHA/ARC certification as an ACLS provider or instructor
 4. Complete all mandatory Los Angeles County EMS programs.
 5. Be employed and sponsored as specified in Section II.B.1-4.

6. 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 with Section III.
 - a. Complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of EMS CE as specified in Section IV.A.5.
 - b. Completed MICN Statement of Continuing Education.
 - c. 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.
 - d. Complete a radio internship as specified in Section II.G.1-5.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:

Ref. No. 1011, **Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) Field Observation**
Ref. 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
MICN Field Observation Form
MICN Field Observation Evaluation