Loudoun County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

EMS Policy #06

Recognition of Providers Certified Outside Loudoun County

Origin: 02/85
Revision: 03/10

1. CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

A. Hold current Virginia certification as a BLS Provider (EMT-B or Higher) or an ALS Provider (EMT-E/I/P).

B. Hold current American Heart Association "BLS – Health Care Provider" CPR course completion documentation

C. Hold current Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., AED/King Airway certification.

D. Be an active member of a Loudoun County EMS Agency that provides BLS pre-hospital care or ALS pre-hospital care if seeking ALS recognition.

E. For ALS providers document a minimum of one (1) year field experience at the EMT-B level or higher if challenging at the EMT-E level.

F. For ALS providers document a minimum of one (1) year* field experience at the EMT-E level or higher if challenging at the EMT-I/P level.

*The one (1) year requirement may be waived if the Provider can document six hundred (600) duty hours and a minimum of thirty (30) ALS calls in a similar manner to their preceptorship program. The documentation will be submitted for consideration to the ALS Committee with the endorsement of the ALS Agency Chief. The ALS Committee will review the documentation and determine the candidate's eligibility for consideration of early challenge and make recommendation to the Operational Medical Director.

G. Upon announcement of an upcoming BLS or ALS Challenge opportunity by a Loudoun County Training Advisory, prospective candidates must submit a TD-TR form. The TD-TR form must be endorsed with the signature of the candidate's ALS Agency Chief.

H. For those seeking ALS provider recognition, members of the ALS Committee Advanced Life Support Interview Sub-committee will interview challenge candidates and their ALS Agency Chief. After the interview the candidates will be presented to the full Advanced Life Support Committee for final approval. This will occur in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meetings of the ALS Committee.

I. Upon approval of the ALS Committee, **all** candidates **must attend** the "ALS Challenge Prep Class", conducted under the auspices of the ALS Committee.

J. For those seeking BLS recognition, instruction and examination of Loudoun County BLS protocols, AED and King Airway may be completed through designated and approved instructors within individual agencies. All Candidates must attend the "BLS Challenge Prep Class" conducted under the auspices of the BLS committee.

K. Failure to comply with any part of these requirements will result in the candidate's termination of the challenge process and will require the candidate to reapply at a future date.

2. CANDIDATE EXAMINATION/EVALUATION

A. Written and practical examinations are developed and administered under the auspices of the Basic Life Support Committee or Advanced Life Support Committee of the Loudoun County EMS Council, Inc. with the approval of the Operational Medical Director.

B. The written Loudoun County examination evaluates both general knowledge consistent with the level being challenged and familiarity with applicable local protocols. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass, with only one opportunity to retest the written examination. Candidates who fail both the test and retest will be eliminated from the current challenge and will be required to fulfill the requirements listed under the section of this policy titled **Candidates unsuccessful in the Challenge Process** in order to be considered for future challenge attempts.

C. The BLS practical examination is comprised of skill stations that evaluate the candidate's ability to perform as a BLS Provider in full accordance with local protocols. Candidate performance is measured against the BLS Committee approved skills checklist. Skills that are evaluated include:

1) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation / AED

2) Patient Assessment (Trauma) with PPCR

3) Patient Assessment (Medical) with PPCR

4) Isolated BLS Skills (minimum of one)

- Application of KED
- Application of MAST/PASG
- Application of Traction Splint
- Splinting of an extremity

5) Airway Management
   - Set up oxygen delivery system
   - Suctioning
   - Insertion of basic airway adjuncts
   - Use of BVM

D. The ALS practical examination is comprised of skill stations that evaluate the candidate's ability to perform as an ALS Provider in full accordance with local protocols. Candidate performance is measured against the ALS Committee approved skills checklists. Skills that are evaluated include:

1) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
2) Patient Assessment (Trauma – specific to the level challenged)
3) Basic Life Support (BLS) Skills Assessment
   a) Traction splint
   b) Cervical spine/Half spine (KED Device)
   c) MAST/PASG
4) Semi-Automated External Defibrillation
5) Treatment Scenario(s) (Specific to the level challenged – Mega Code)
6) Airway Management
   a) Airway maintenance
   b) King –LTD Airway
   c) Endotracheal Intubation
7) Intravenous (IV) Access and Medication Administration
   a) Establishing an IV and calculation of drip rate
   b) IV medication administration
   c) Intramuscular (IM) medication administration
   d) Subcutaneous (SQ) medication administration
   e) Nebulizer treatment
8) Therapeutic Modalities (Specific to the level challenged)

Additional skills on which the EMT-I/P will be evaluated include:

1) Airway Management
    a) Pediatric Endotracheal Intubation
    b) Needle Chest Decompression
    c) Surgical Cricothyrotomy
2) Intraosseous (IO) Infusion
    a) Pediatric
    b) Adult
3) Electrical Therapy
    a) Manual Defibrillation
    b) Cardioversion
    c) External Cardiac Pacing
4) Dysrhythmias
    a) Static (80% and Critical Criteria)
    b) Dynamic (Critical Criteria)

CANDIDATES UNSUCCESSFUL IN THE CHALLENGE PROCESS

A. BLS Candidates who are unsuccessful in three or fewer practical testing stations will be permitted to retest failed skills once. Candidates failing more than three practical stations or any retested skill will be required to complete the requirements of this section in order to be eligible to enter a future Challenge process.
B. Documentation of the failed attempts will be forwarded to the Chief of the candidate's agency by the coordinator of the BLS Challenge Process or the Training Division of the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services. The documentation will clearly outline those areas that require remedial training.
C. The chief of the candidate's agency or their designee will coordinate the remedial training of the unsuccessful candidate.

D. The chief or designee shall document in writing that remedial training has taken place with the candidate. The written documentation will be forwarded to the Training Division of the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services and a copy shall be attached to the TD-TR for reentry into the BLS Challenge Process.

E. The candidate will be considered in the same manner as a new entry candidate for the BLS Challenge process and will be required to be current with all prerequisite requirements.

F. Failure to complete the requirements of this section will result in a denial of the candidate's request to participate in the BLS Challenge opportunity until such requirements are completed.

G. ALS Candidates who are unsuccessful in three or fewer practical testing stations will be permitted to retest failed skills once. Candidates failing more than three practical stations or any retested skill will be required to attend a Loudoun County ALS Refresher training program at the level they are challenging in order to be considered for future challenge attempts.

5. CANDIDATES SUCCESSFUL IN THE CHALLENGE PROCESS

A. BLS Candidates who are successful in the BLS Challenge process will be issued an EMT-B Local Authorization Card from the Operational Medical Director(s) to practice as an EMT-B in Loudoun County. The expiration date on the local authorization card will be the same as the expiration date on their Virginia EMT-B or higher certification. Such local authorization does not covey "Attendant in Charge" status. AIC status is a different process covered under a separate policy following the locally authorized EMT-B's successful completion of a preceptorship at the EMT-B level in accordance with the requirements of that policy.

B. Individuals successfully complying with this policy will be issued locally authorized EMT-B cards with a White background.

C. ALS Candidates who are successful in the ALS Challenge will within thirty (30) days, document ten (10) hours of clinical experience in the Emergency Department of Loudoun Hospital Center for familiarization with hospital staff, equipment, and procedural guidelines, AND document completion of two (2) successful adult intubations (ER/OR) under approved supervision. These requirements may be waived for candidates who have completed similar requirements at Loudoun Hospital Center. Failure to complete these requirements within the designated 30-day period will require the candidate to reapply for challenge testing. This noted 30-day period is inclusive of the established preceptorship program

D. Individuals successfully complying with this policy will be issued locally authorized EMT- E or I/P cards with a Blue background.

6. Frequency of Challenge testing Opportunities

BLS Challenge - The practical "challenge" examination is offered quarterly in conjunction with the BLS certification and recertification courses conducted under the auspices of the BLS Committee. Information regarding specific examination dates is available through the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Training Division and is incorporated into the Training Advisory calendars.
ALS Challenge - The written and practical "challenge" examinations are offered in conjunction with the ALS certification and recertification courses conducted under the auspices of the ALS Committee. Information regarding specific examination dates is available through the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Training Division and is incorporated into the Training Advisories distributed announcing the aforementioned courses.

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