



## MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

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### I. AUTHORITY:

*Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.56, 1797.58, 1798.2; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 70217 & 100168.*

### II. APPLICATION:

This policy defines the process for the OCEMS medical director to authorize a registered nurse (RN) to function as a Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) at an Orange County Base Hospital.

### III. DEFINITIONS:

"Mobile intensive care nurse (MICN)" means a registered nurse who is functioning pursuant to Section 2725 of the Business and Professions Code and who has been authorized by the medical director of the local EMS agency.

"Base hospital treatment guidelines" are those medical directives identified in the OCEMS Base Hospital Treatment Guidelines as requiring a base hospital (BH) order which an MICN may issue to prehospital care personnel without consulting the base hospital physician. Base hospital treatment guidelines are approved by the OCEMS Medical Director.

### IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- A. No person or organization other than a hospital which is currently designated as a base hospital (BH) by Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) with authorized base hospital radios shall utilize an MICN to provide field care instructions to advanced life support (ALS) prehospital emergency medical care personnel.
- B. No person or organization shall utilize an RN to provide field care instructions to ALS prehospital emergency medical care personnel unless the RN is an MICN who is currently authorized by the OCEMS medical director to provide instructions or is an RN who has completed an MICN education program and is completing a preauthorization BH evaluation supervised or monitored by the employing BH's prehospital care coordinator or designee.
- C. No person shall represent him/herself as an MICN unless that person is currently authorized as an MICN by the OCEMS Medical Director.
- D. Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to abridge or restrict the duties or functions of an RN or MICN as otherwise provided by law.
- E. In addition to any other duties or functions which an RN may perform as otherwise provided by the law, an MICN may, while on duty at a designated BH, according to the base hospital treatment guidelines approved by the OCEMS Medical Director, provide on-line medical direction to ALS prehospital emergency medical care personnel who, as part of the OCEMS system, have responded to the scene of a medical emergency or are performing an interhospital emergency patient transfer as described in OCEMS Policy 310.20.
- F. Authorization as an MICN shall be for a maximum of two (2) years from the date of successful completion of all authorization requirements.
- G. An MICN authorization may be suspended, revoked, denied, or placed on probation by the OCEMS Medical Director in accordance with the standardized procedures set forth in OCEMS Policy 450.00.



## MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

---

### V. APPLICATION CRITERIA:

To be eligible for authorization, an individual shall meet all of the following requirements:

- A. Be currently licensed as an RN in California
- B. Minimum one year full time experience as an RN in emergency nursing. For work at a CCERC, one year of pediatric ED experience is preferred.
- C. Current employment in the emergency department (ED) of an Orange County BH; or, current employment with OCEMS and a previous authorization as an MICN in Orange County.
- D. Successfully complete the authorization process (See Section VI).
- E. To work as an MICN at a CCERC, applicants must be credentialed as a Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse (CPEN) or be a current Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC) provider or instructor.

### VI. AUTHORIZATION PROCESS FOR ALL CANDIDATES:

All of the following must be submitted to OCEMS when applying for initial MICN authorization:

- A. Take and pass the OCEMS MICN Candidate Pre-test examination with a minimum score of eighty percent (80%).

**NOTE:** If a candidate fails to pass the MICN pre-test examination, the examination may be re-taken at the next regularly scheduled exam date unless otherwise agreed by OCEMS. If a candidate fails a second time, he/she must wait one year before taking it again.

- B. Successful completion of an OCEMS approved MICN education program.
- C. Take and pass the OCEMS MICN authorization examination with a minimum score of eighty percent (80%).

- 1. Candidates working at a CCERC base hospital will be given an additional set of pediatric-specific examination questions.

**NOTE:** If a candidate fails to pass the MICN authorization examination, the examination may be re-taken at the next regularly scheduled exam date unless otherwise agreed by OCEMS. If the candidate fails to achieve eighty percent (80%) in the re-exam, he/she must successfully complete another OCEMS approved MICN education program.

- D. The following activities must be completed and documented within 12 months from date of passing the authorization examination
  - 1. Attendance at a communications orientation by a designee of an Orange County Dispatch Center.
  - 2. Base Hospital console preceptorship, supervised by the Base Hospital Coordinator (BHC) or designee.
  - 3. Demonstrate competency in scenario based calls as determined by OCEMS and base hospital coordinators.
  - 4. Base Hospital console training :
    - a. Demonstrate proficiency in the operation of the BH communications console to the satisfaction of the base hospital coordinator.





## MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

---

- 5. Direct observation of paramedics providing care in the field for a minimum of eight (8) hours.
- E. Complete the appropriate OCEMS application for MICN authorization online through OC-MEDS within 12 months from date of passing the authorization examination.
- F. Payment for the established fee. (Initial authorization fees shall be prorated based on the initial authorization cycle).
- G. Written recommendation by the sponsoring BH's physician director and the base hospital coordinator and ED nursing director.

### VII. CHALLENGE PROCESS

To be eligible for challenging the MICN authorization examination, an individual shall meet the following requirements:

- A. Currently Licensed as an RN in California.
- B. Minimum five years' experience as an RN in emergency nursing.
- C. Minimum two years' experience as an MICN within the last 5 years.
- D. To work as an MICN at a CCERC, applicants must be credentialed as a Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse (CPEN) or be a current Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC) provider or instructor.
- E. Written recommendation from base hospital coordinator, with OCEMS approval.
- F. Written recommendation by the sponsoring BH's physician director and the ED nursing director.
- G. Take and pass the OCEMS MICN Candidate Pre-test examination with a minimum score of eighty percent (80%).
- H. Complete the MICN candidate self-study training program as approved by OCEMS and assigned by the Base Hospital Coordinator.
- I. Take and pass the OCEMS MICN authorization examination with a minimum score of eighty percent (80%). Candidates working at a CCERC base hospital will be given an additional set of pediatric-specific examination questions.
- J. Complete base hospital orientation as described in Section VI D, 2-5, above.
- K. Complete the appropriate OCEMS application for MICN authorization online through OC-MEDS.
- L. Payment for the established fee (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00). Candidates already possessing MICN authorization at the same base hospital are exempt from a second fee.

**NOTE:** If an MICN challenge candidate fails to meet the requirements of the challenge process, they must successfully complete the entire MICN authorization process (see Section VI).

### VIII. MAINTAINING AUTHORIZATION:

To maintain MICN authorization, all of the following shall occur:



## MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

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- A. Maintain current unrestricted licensure as an RN in the State of California.
- B. MICNs working at a CCERC must maintain CPEN certification or ENPC provider/instructor status.
- C. Maintain employment at an Orange County BH with regular assignment to the ED, or with OCEMS.
- D. Continue to be sponsored by the BH to function in the role of an MICN.
- E. Attend all OCEMS-mandated updates.
- F. Active participation in the following:
  - 1. Continuing education from an approved CE provider.
  - 2. Attend BH sponsored Regional Emergency Advisory Committee (REAC) meetings.
  - 3. MICN must be regularly scheduled on the radio.

### IX. REAUTHORIZATION PROCESS:

The following must be kept on file at the Base Hospital or submitted to OCEMS during the renewal application process:

- A. Letter of sponsorship from the BH, signed by the BH's physician director, the BH coordinator and the ED nursing director and attesting to satisfaction of all reauthorization requirements.
- B. Complete the appropriate OCEMS application for MICN authorization online through OC-MEDS.
- C. Documentation of the following:
  - 1. A minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education every two years from an approved CE provider. At least 50% (15 hours) must be in topics directly related to prehospital or emergency medicine.
  - 2. Maintenance of CPEN certification or ENPC provider/instructor status for MICNs working at CCERCs.
  - 3. Attendance at OCEMS approved mandatory in-services.
  - 4. Attendance at minimum of two (2) Regional Emergency Advisory Committee (REAC) meetings per calendar year as offered by an Orange County BH.
  - 5. Annual MICN competency based testing as directed by the Base Hospital Coordinator and approved by OCEMS.

**NOTE:** Retain all reauthorization documentation for six (6) months after the expiration date of the authorization period.

- D. Payment of the established fee.
- E. MICNs who are currently employed by OCEMS or are Base Hospital Coordinators will be exempt from the reauthorization process (Section IX).





## MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

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### X. CONDITIONAL REAUTHORIZATION:

MICNs who fail to satisfy all of the reauthorization requirements may be denied authorization or may be issued a *conditional authorization*. Base Hospital Coordinators shall advise OCEMS of the nature of the conditional authorization within 60 days of expiration. Advisement shall include a correction plan within facility policy and base hospital QI plan. Plans of correction should be uploaded into the MICNs profile in OCMEDS Licensure module. Conditional authorizations may be made at the discretion of the OCEMS Medical Director, or designee.

### XI. INACTIVE STATUS / REACTIVATION:

An MICN who has had a break in service greater than 6 months shall be considered *inactive*. To regain *active* status the candidate must:

- A. Complete a review of current OCEMS policies/procedures, ALS/BLS standing orders, and base hospital treatment guidelines conducted by the BHC, and successfully pass missed mandated in-services and testing.
- B. Demonstrate proficiency in the operation of the BH communications console to the satisfaction of the base hospital coordinator.
- C. Orange County MICNs currently working at an Orange County BH who have been inactive for greater than one year must retake the authorization examination and may challenge the authorization process at the discretion of the Base Hospital Coordinator.

### XII. BASE HOSPITAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Upon authorization by the OCEMS medical director, the MICN shall be regularly assigned to the BH console.
- B. The BH shall be responsible for:
  - 1. Ensuring the MICN is competent to provide online medical direction.
  - 2. Ensuring the MICN is regularly scheduled on the base hospital console.
  - 3. Ensuring the MICN is immediately available to respond to request for medical direction on the base console.
  - 4. Evaluation and appropriate follow up for MICNs with deviations from base hospital treatment guidelines or whose experience or performance level may adversely impact online medical direction (Reference: OCEMS policies 385.05 and 450.00).
  - 5. Notification to OCEMS and updating OC-MEDS of changes in name, status (active / inactive / LOA) or sponsorship of MICNs within 30 days of change.

### XIII. OCEMS RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. OCEMS will provide authorization examinations to eligible individuals at regularly scheduled intervals. Test results (pass/no pass) will be shared with the sponsoring base hospital coordinator within 5 business days of testing.
- B. Initial authorization and reauthorization requests will be reviewed by OCEMS within 10 business days of receipt of all required documentation and payment of fees. OCEMS will generate a communication indicating authorization status and forward to the sponsoring BH coordinator.



## MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

---

- C. OCEMS will maintain an electronic database of MICNs authorized by the OCEMS medical director, to include *active/inactive* status as reported by the BH.

**Approved:**

Carl H. Schultz, MD, FACEP  
OCEMS Medical Director

Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN  
OCEMS Administrator

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