

## Provider Credentialing

### Standard:

Define credentialing and the credential levels of providers within the ATCEMS System.

### Definitions:

Certification or Licensure: an individual who is certified or licensed by a regulatory body as minimally proficient to perform emergency prehospital care at a particular level that is defined by a regulatory body (e.g., ECA, EMT, AEMT, EMT-P or LP).

Credential to Practice: a process that is defined by the Medical Director that requires a certified or licensed individual to demonstrate competency to practice at a specified level of prehospital care. The credential to practice may be at or below the individual's level of certification or license.

### Purpose:

Every Provider that delivers medical care within the ATCEMS System must be "Credentialed to Practice" in addition to holding a current State of Texas Certification or Licensure. All Credentialed Providers within the ATCEMS System are allowed to provide care under the delegated authority of the Medical Director in accordance with the rules of the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Medical Board. Credentialing is the final approval by the System Medical Director that ensures an individual's competency to care for patients as part of the Emergency Medical Services System. An individual is "Credentialed to Practice" when he or she successfully meets and maintains the defined Credentialing requirements. The levels of Credentialing are:

- Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)
- PL 1
- PL 2
- PL 3
- PL 4
- PL 5
- PL 6

"Credentialing Requirements" (OMD Reference) defines what is required to obtain and maintain credentials to practice within the ATCEMS System and can be found at:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/clinical-operating-guidelines>

"Authorized Skills by Credential Level" (OMD Reference) defines the interventions available to credentialed providers: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/clinical-operating-guidelines>

"System Clinical Reintegration" (OMD Reference) is necessary for a Responder or Provider that has been absent from direct patient care for an extended period of time:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/clinical-operating-guidelines>

During the time of absence, the responder/provider Credential will be placed on an **"OMD Administrative Hold"** (Clinical Standard OMD Modification or Revocation of Credential to Practice). Examples of absences that this process applies to are: leave of absence, OJI, FMLA, Departmental/Organizational reassignments, military deployments or similar. Each organization is responsible for notifying the OMD of these type circumstances as soon as they are aware of them. The purpose of this process is to ensure that the System Credentialed responder/provider has a smooth transition back into patient care. Upon their return, a time of review, competency assessments and/or preception during direct patient care insures clinical knowledge and skills are commensurate with System expectations. The exact steps and competencies required will be determined based upon the circumstance of the absence, length of time away and meeting all DSHS requirements. Each Organization will advise the OMD of the need for this process and; propose an individualized plan for each person involved in it. The OMD will review the proposal and provide approval and/or feedback.