

Paramedic Clearance Protocol

CHAPTER 17.1

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Submitted by: Technical Services

Approved by: Chief of Fire Rescue

Purpose

All paramedics employed by licensed EMS agencies in Alachua County function under the direction and pleasure of the System Medical Director. The purpose of this procedure is to establish a methodology to determine the competency of paramedics to practice medical procedures in the field, under the System Medical Director.

General Guidelines

All paramedics that wish to obtain medical clearance shall complete an evaluation process to determine competency to perform medical procedures in the field. The process will assure that candidates possess the cognitive knowledge and psychomotor skills necessary to provide medical services without direct supervision.

1. Submit copy of current State of Florida paramedic license, ITLS or PHTLS, current ACLS, and current BLS card.
2. Send an email request to the Assistant Chief of Technical Services requesting to take the written protocol test. The written protocol test will be set up off duty within ten days of request acceptance.
3. If you pass the written protocol test you may then ride as a paramedic/firefighter in training. This allows you to ride in the back of a Rescue with a Rescue Lieutenant which gives you the opportunity to work on skills while transporting patients. The Rescue Lieutenant is in charge of overall patient care. Any submitted EMS reports must be cosigned by the Rescue Lieutenant.
4. Upon completion of the written protocol test you will have sixty (60) calendar days commencing from the date of passing notification to complete all clearance requirements.
5. Prior to the clearance lab with the Medical Director, you shall meet with Technical Services personnel to determine your readiness to meet with the Medical Director.
6. Upon successful completion of the Technical Services assessment, you shall be scheduled to complete the clearance lab with the Medical Director. The clearance lab date will be scheduled off duty.

7. Should the clearance candidate fail to complete the Medical Director clearance lab prior to the end of the sixty day period, he/she must restart the clearance process
8. Paramedic clearance can initially be attempted two times. If the candidate is unsuccessful after the second attempt, they must wait a period of not less than six months from the date of their last clearance attempt until they are eligible to restart the process. If after the third attempt the candidate is still unsuccessful they must then wait a period of not less than twelve months from the date of their last attempt to restart the clearance process. All further attempts will remain on an annual basis.
9. If a candidate is unsuccessful in their first clearance attempt, they can request from Technical Services a custom outline of core competencies for remediation.
10. Once you pass the clearance lab*, paperwork will be submitted for a classification change and you can work out of class until the final pay grade change is made. This normally takes about two weeks for processing.
11. If you fail any step you must start back at step 1 or as directed by the Medical Director.

*During the clearance process, the candidate shall at a minimum show proficiency of the following:

1. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of ACLS procedures and protocols
2. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of ACFR's Medical Care Protocols
3. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of trauma protocols and trauma transport protocols
4. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of airway management and vascular access
5. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the doses, effects, uses, and contraindications of ACFR's formulary.
6. Demonstrate proficiency in documentation of pertinent information required on approved run reports

Upon successful completion of the clearance lab, the Training Bureau will issue a Certificate of Completion for Medical Clearance and an authorization to perform ALS procedures autonomously in the field.

The medical clearance will allow you to work in the capacity of a cleared paramedic. **It does not promote you to the pay class position of a Rescue Lieutenant.**