





EMS SYSTEM ADVISORY #2020-03/26

TO: Riverside County EMS System

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi MD, Medical Director 
Dan Bates, Deputy EMS Administrator 

SUBJECT: Expiring certification for BLS/ACLS/PALS/PEPP/PHTLS/ITLS

DATE: March 26, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of us, including our first response, transport providers and hospital partners have been working in an environment that is unpredictable and ever changing. During this difficult time, the Riverside County Emergency Medical Services Agency (REMSA) is reviewing ways to minimize and be cautious to the impacts of COVID-19 on our EMS system and its providers. As a precautionary measure to control the spread of COVID-19, REMSA has received questions from our EMS system about extensions, or “grace periods” for expiring certifications.

REMSA is granting a grace period from March 16, 2020 for the following certifications expiring through July 1, 2020:

- BLS or REMSA approved equivalent
- ACLS or REMSA approved equivalent
- PALS and/or PEPP or REMSA approved equivalent
- PHTLS and/or ITLS

Providers must complete the applicable renewal processes prior to September 1, 2020. REMSA understands that finding such classes during the COVID-19 pandemic might prove to be difficult due to social distancing guidelines. However, all CA state requirements such as EMT certification, Paramedic license, California Driver’s License and Ambulance Driver’s Certificate will continue to adhere to the requirements defined by each regulating entity. REMSA will continue to monitor for any regulatory temporary extension on State certifications and licenses and provide updated guidance as new information becomes available.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

