



Critical care begins in the street

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Initial Credentialing

Credentialing is the process by which you will establish an oversight relationship with an EMS Medical Director. This process allows the Medical Director to attest to your clinical competency and define your scope of practice.

- It demonstrates that you are maintaining *at least* minimal competency in the knowledge, skills, and abilities relevant to your clinical role in the health care system.
- It ensures that you are connecting your initial and continuing education learning with your job performance.
- Credentialing is part of our assurance to our municipal representatives and the general public that you have met a system-defined minimally acceptable level of competence.

This process is consistent with national recommendations jointly published by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) and the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT). Credentials are granted for a period of two years, however the Medical Director retains the option to deny any credential, issue a credential with restrictions, or issue a credential for a shortened period in unusual circumstances. Credentialing will be tracked on the Regions Hospital MyLearning system (similar to other certifications such as ACLS, CPR, etc).

The ALS (Advanced Life Support) level of credentialing is designed for advanced level providers who deliver advanced life support. ALS providers are granted permission for a more extensive list of medications, intravenous access, electrical cardiac therapy, and advanced airway management such as endotracheal intubation. The minimum state certification for this credentialing level is Paramedic or RN (with critical care or ER experience). Additional endorsements are available for expanded scope of practice including RSI, Tactical EMS (TEMS), and Critical Care, depending on the needs of your agency.

ALS credentialing with Regions EMS includes the following components:

- Verification of active practice status
- Completion of required education modules
- Psychomotor skills verification
- Guideline familiarity exam
- Integration scenario
- Documentation review
- Meet with a Medical Director

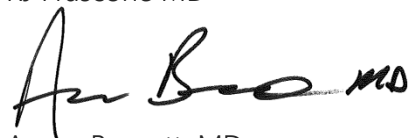
Restricted ALS Status (R-ALS)

During your initial orientation and training phase, you will be credentialed as a "Restricted ALS" provider after completing the active practice verification, required education modules, and basic skills assessment. This will allow you to perform ALS skills when supervised by another fully credentialed ALS provider. When you complete your agency's orientation and training process, you will be scheduled for a 3-hour Critical Thinking Lab at the Regions EMS office in Oakdale, MN. This is required by the medical directors within every 2-year recertification cycle. During this session you will take a computerized patient care guideline exam and undergo several scenario-based evaluations to assess your core paramedic knowledge and critical thinking skills. Once you have successfully completed the Critical Thinking Lab, you will submit 2 or 3 documentation samples (real or simulated) for a medical director to review, and schedule an informal one-on-one meeting with a medical director to discuss documentation expectations, patient care philosophies, and ask any questions you might have about practicing under the medical direction of Regions EMS.


If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Regions EMS office (EMSEducation@HealthPartners.com or 651-254-7780). We want this process to be fair and transparent and welcome your feedback.



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**Thank you
for your service!**



Partners in EMS



Regions Hospital