

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to define the scope of practice of San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency accredited paramedics.

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220;
Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 4 et seq.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Emergency Medical Technician – I" or "EMT-I" means a person who has successfully completed a basic EMT-I course which meets the requirements of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 2 and has been certified as an EMT-I by an EMT-I certifying authority.
- B. "Emergency Medical Technician – II" or "EMT-II" means a person who has successfully completed a basic EMT-I course which meets the requirements of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3 and has been certified as an EMT-II by an EMT-II certifying authority.
- C. "Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic" or "EMT-P" or "Paramedic" or "Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic" means a person who is educated and trained in all elements of the prehospital advanced life support and has been licensed by the State of California as a paramedic.

POLICY:

- I. An accredited paramedic may perform any activity identified in the scope of practice of an EMT-I or any activity identified in the scope of practice of an EMT-II.
- II. As part of the State approved basic scope of practice, a paramedic student or accredited paramedic, as part of the organized emergency medical services system in San Joaquin County, while caring for patients in a hospital as part of his/her training or continuing education under direct supervision of a physician, registered nurse, or physician assistant, or while at the scene of a medical emergency or during transport, or during interfacility transfer may perform the following procedures or administer the following medications in accordance with

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Medical Director

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EMS Administrator

the written policies and procedures of the San Joaquin County EMS Agency:

- A. Perform defibrillation.
- B. Perform cardioversion.
- C. Visualize the airway by use of laryngoscope and remove foreign body(ies) with forceps.
- D. Perform pulmonary ventilation by use of the esophageal airway, lower airway lumen, or endotracheal intubation.
- E. Institute intravenous (IV) catheters, saline locks, needles, or other cannulae in peripheral veins; and monitor and administer medications through pre-existing vascular access.
- F. Administer intravenous glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions including Ringer's lactate solution.
- G. Obtain venous blood samples.
- H. Use glucose and pulse oximetry measuring devices.
- I. Perform Valsalva's maneuver.
- J. Perform needle cricothyrotomy and transtracheal jet ventilation.
- K. Perform needle thorcostomy.
- L. Monitor thoracostomy tubes.
- M. Monitor IV solution containing potassium equal to or less than 20 mEq./L.
- N. Administer using prepackaged products when available:
 - 1. 25% and 50% dextrose.
 - 2. Activated charcoal.
 - 3. Adenosine.
 - 4. Aerosolized or nebulized beta-2 specific bronchodilators.
 - 5. Aspirin.
 - 6. Atropine sulfate.
 - 7. Bretylium tosylate.
 - 8. Calcium chloride.
 - 9. Diazepam.
 - 10. Diphenhydramine hydrochloride.
 - 11. Dopamine hydrochloride.
 - 12. Epinephrine.
 - 13. Furosemide.
 - 14. Glucagon.
 - 15. Lidocaine hydrochloride.
 - 16. Midazolam.
 - 17. Morphine sulfate.
 - 18. Naloxone hydrochloride.
 - 19. Nitroglycerine preparation – sublingual or oral spray.

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20. Sodium bicarbonate.

III. As part of the State approved expanded scope of practice, an accredited paramedic, as part of the organized emergency medical services system in San Joaquin County, while caring for patients in a hospital as part of his/her training or continuing education under direct supervision of a physician, registered nurse, or physician assistant, or while at the scene of a medical emergency or during transport, or during interfacility transfer may perform the following procedures or administer the following medications in accordance with the written policies and procedure of the San Joaquin County EMS Agency:

- A. Perform pediatric oral endotracheal intubation.
- B. Perform adult naso-tracheal intubation.
- C. Perform intraosseous access.
- D. Perform nasogastric intubation and gastric suctioning.
- E. Perform transcutaneous cardiac pacing.
- F. Monitor and adjust heparin infusion during interfacility transport.¹
- G. Monitor and adjust nitroglycerine infusion during interfacility transport.²
- H. Administer using prepackaged products when available the following medications by the routes specified in the ALS treatment protocols:
 - 1. Magnesium sulfate.

1 Use limited to specially approved advanced life support ambulance providers.

2 Use limited to specially approved advanced life support ambulance providers.