

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to define the scope of practice of San Joaquin County EMS Agency accredited paramedics.

**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220; 1798 et seq., Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 4 et seq.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Emergency Medical Technician" or "EMT" means a person who has successfully completed a basic EMT course, which meets the requirements of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, and Chapter 2 and has been certified as an EMT by an EMT-I certifying authority.
- B. "Advanced EMT or Emergency Medical Technician – II" or "EMT-II" means a person who has successfully completed a basic EMT 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. "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 or any activity identified in the scope of practice of an Advanced EMT or EMT-II.
- II. As part of the State approved basic scope of practice, a paramedic student or accredited paramedic, as part of the organized EMS 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 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 ECG's.
  - E. Perform pulmonary ventilation by use of the esophageal airway, lower airway

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Approved: Signature on File  
Medical Director

Signature on File  
EMS Administrator

- lumen, endotracheal intubation or other airway adjuncts approved by the EMS Agency.
- F. Use of ventilators during transport as approved by the EMS Agency.<sup>1</sup>
  - G. Institute intravenous (IV) catheters, saline locks, needles, or other cannulae in peripheral veins; and monitor and administer medications through pre-existing vascular access.
  - H. Administer intravenous glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions including Ringer's lactate solution.
  - I. Obtain venous blood samples.
  - J. Use glucose and pulse oximetry measuring devices.
  - K. Perform Valsalva's maneuver.
  - L. Perform needle cricothyrotomy.
  - M. Perform needle thoracostomy.
  - N. Monitor thoracostomy tubes.
  - O. Monitor IV solution containing potassium equal to or less than 20 mEq./L.
  - P. The following are the only authorized routes for administration of medications
    - 1. Intravenous
    - 2. Intraosseous
    - 3. Subcutaneous
    - 4. Intramuscular
    - 5. Sublingual
    - 6. Inhalation
    - 7. Oral
  - Q. 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. Calcium chloride.
    - 8. Diazepam<sup>2</sup>
    - 9. Diphenhydramine hydrochloride.
    - 10. Dopamine hydrochloride.
    - 11. Epinephrine.
    - 12. Furosemide<sup>3</sup>
    - 13. Glucagon.

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<sup>1</sup> Use limited to specially approved ALS ambulance providers.

<sup>2</sup> As part of a nerve agent antidote kit.

<sup>3</sup> As prescribed by the transferring physician during an interfacility transfer.

14. Lidocaine hydrochloride.
15. Midazolam.
16. Morphine sulfate.
17. Naloxone hydrochloride.
18. Nitroglycerine preparation – sublingual or oral spray.
19. Pralidoxime chloride (2 - PAM)
20. Sodium bicarbonate.

III. An accredited paramedic in San Joaquin County is authorized, as part of the State approved expanded scope of practice, to perform the following procedures or administer the following medications in accordance with the written policies 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.<sup>1</sup>
- G. Monitor and adjust nitroglycerine infusion during interfacility transport.<sup>1</sup>
- H. Administer using prepackaged products when available the following medications by the routes specified in the ALS treatment protocols:
  1. Magnesium sulfate.
  2. Atrovent.

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<sup>1</sup> Use limited to specially approved ALS ambulance providers.