

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 2000
Effective Date: 5/23/2023
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PARAMEDIC SCOPE OF PRACTICE

I. PURPOSE

To define the scope of practice for paramedics in Monterey County.

II. POLICY

- A. The paramedic shall meet all requirements for State licensure and Monterey County accreditation as identified in California Code of Regulations, Title 22 and in accordance with Monterey County EMS system policies and procedures.
- B. Paramedic personnel shall adhere to the Monterey County Paramedic Scope of Practice while functioning in a paramedic position with an approved paramedic service provider.
- C. The scope of practice for paramedic personnel shall not exceed those activities authorized in California Code of Regulations Title 22 and by Monterey County policy.

III. SCOPE OF PRACTICE


- A. A paramedic student or state-licensed, Monterey County-accredited paramedic may perform procedures and administer medications within the Monterey County Paramedic Scope of Practice while caring for patients in the hospital as part of his/her training or continuing education under the direct supervision of a physician, registered nurse, or physician assistant.
- B. A paramedic student or state-licensed, Monterey County-accredited paramedic, while at the scene at a medical emergency or during transport, or during inter-facility transfer, may perform only those procedures and administer only those medications which are:
 1. Specifically included in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, are in accordance with Monterey County EMS Agency policy and protocol, and approved by the Monterey County EMS Medical Director.
 2. Included in the EMT Scope of Practice for Monterey County.
 3. Approved as additional procedure(s) and/or drug(s) by the Monterey County EMS Medical Director as an optional skill or for use on a trial basis, and for which the paramedic student or state-licensed Monterey County-accredited paramedic has been trained and tested.
 4. Monterey County paramedics may perform the following skills in addition to the Monterey County EMT scope of practice:
 - a. Utilize electrocardiographic devices and monitor electrocardiograms, including 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECG).
 - b. Defibrillation, synchronized cardioversion, and external cardiac pacing.

- c. Visualize the airway by use of the laryngoscope and remove foreign body(ies) with Magill forceps.
- d. Perform pulmonary ventilation by use of a supraglottic airway or adult oral endotracheal intubation.
- e. Utilize mechanical ventilation devices for continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP).
- f. Institute intravenous (IV) catheters, saline locks, needles, or other cannulas (IV lines) in peripheral veins and monitor and administer medications through pre-existing vascular access catheters.
- g. Institute intraosseous (IO) needles or catheters.
- h. Administer IV or IO glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions, including Ringer's lactate solution.
- i. Use laboratory devices, including point of care testing, for pre-hospital screening use to measure lab values including, but not limited to: glucose, capnometry, capnography, and carbon monoxide when appropriate authorization is obtained from State and Federal agencies, including from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).
- j. Instruct patients to perform Valsalva maneuvers.
- k. Perform percutaneous needle cricothyroidotomy.
- l. Perform needle thoracostomy.
- m. Perform nasogastric and orogastric tube suctioning.
- n. Monitor thoracostomy tubes.
- o. Monitor and adjust IV solutions containing potassium, equal to or less than 40 mEq/L.
- p. Administer approved medications by the following routes:
 - 1) IV
 - 2) IO
 - 3) Intramuscular
 - 4) Subcutaneous
 - 5) Inhalation
 - 6) Transcutaneous
 - 7) Sublingual
 - 8) Intranasal
 - 9) Oral
- q. Administer, using prepackaged products when available, the following medications:

- 1) Activated charcoal
- 2) Adenosine
- 3) Aerosolized or nebulized beta-2 specific bronchodilators
- 4) Amiodarone
- 5) Aspirin
- 6) Atropine sulfate
- 7) Pralidoxime chloride
- 8) Calcium chloride
- 9) Dextrose 10%, 25%, and 50%
- 10) Diphenhydramine hydrochloride
- 11) Dopamine hydrochloride
- 12) Epinephrine
- 13) Fentanyl
- 14) Glucagon
- 15) Ipratropium bromide
- 16) Ketamine
- 17) Lidocaine hydrochloride
- 18) Magnesium Sulfate
- 19) Midazolam
- 20) Morphine Sulfate
- 21) Naloxone hydrochloride
- 22) Nitroglycerine preparations, except IV
- 23) Ondansetron
- 24) Sodium bicarbonate
- 25) Tranexamic Acid (TXA)
- 26) 2-PAM (Pralidoxime Chloride) by auto-injector
- 27) *Buprenorphine

*Provider agencies must have approval from the EMS Agency in order to participate in this local optional scope of practice (LOSOP) item.

END OF POLICY


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