

POLICY #215: EMT Basic Scope of Practice

Additional Skills

I. PURPOSE

- A. To establish the intent and requirements of the Medical Director for the County of San Luis Obispo (SLO) Emergency Medical Services Agency (SLOEMSA) regarding the use of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills in SLO.

II. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to SLO EMS Provider Agencies, fire departments and ambulance providers, that employ individuals as EMTs for emergency medical care in the SLO Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT): A person who has successfully completed an EMT course, passed all required tests, and has a current and valid California EMT certification.
- B. EMT Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills: Refers to skills listed in Title 22 of California Code of Regulation (CCR) as EMT basic skills that require Medical Director approval.
- C. EMS Provider Agency: An agency or organization in SLO that is responsible for and approved to provide emergency medical care using certified/accredited EMTs and/or paramedics.

IV. POLICY

- A. All EMS Provider Agencies will be automatically approved to utilize all EMT Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills.
 - 1. Monitor intravenous lines delivering glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions including Ringer's lactate for volume replacement. Monitor, maintain, and adjust if necessary in order to maintain, a preset rate of flow and turn off the flow of intravenous fluid;
 - 2. Transfer a patient, who is deemed appropriate for transfer by the transferring physician, and who has nasogastric (NG) tubes, gastrostomy tubes, heparin locks, foley catheters, tracheostomy tubes and/or indwelling vascular access lines, excluding arterial lines;
 - 3. Administer naloxone or other opioid antagonist by intranasal and/or intramuscular routes for suspected narcotic overdose;
 - 4. Administer epinephrine by auto-injector for suspected anaphylaxis and/or severe asthma;
 - 5. Perform finger stick blood glucose testing; and

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6. Administer over the counter medications, when approved by the medical director, including, but not limited to: Aspirin.
- B. The EMS Provider Agency will be responsible for notifying SLOEMSA if they would like to participate or opt out of EMT Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills utilization.
 - C. The EMS Provider Agency will be responsible for the initial and ongoing competency verifications for each EMT employed.
 - D. An EMT shall successfully complete competency verifications for each skill prior to use of the skill in the field.
 - E. EMTs verified to use any Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skill must be authorized by their EMS Provider Agency prior to utilizing skills.
 - F. An EMT authorized to utilize Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills may assist in the competency verification of those skills
 - G. EMTs who fail to meet and/or maintain competency verification requirements may not be authorized to use their EMS Provider Agency's approved skills.
 - H. When an authorized EMT has started a Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skill and an ALS unit arrives on scene prior to completing that skill, the EMT may continue the skill with the approval and under the direction of the arriving SLO accredited paramedic, if the continuation of the skill expedites necessary patient care.
 - I. An authorized EMT, while on duty with an approved provider, may perform Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills for any patient at the request and under the direction of an on scene SLO accredited paramedic.
 - J. During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, an authorized EMT may utilize the Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills for which they are authorized for use by their EMS Provider Agency in SLO.
 - K. Any costs incurred creating, implementing, and maintaining for the use of Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills will be the sole responsibility of the EMS Provider Agency.
 - L. Devices and supplies required for utilizing Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills will be maintained in accordance with drug manufacturer recommendations including, but not limited to expiration dates, storage, use, disposal, and temperature.
 - M. The approval of Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills does not expire. When approved skills are no longer desired for use by the EMS Provider Agency, a written notification must be submitted to SLOEMSA.
 - N. SLOEMSA may audit all documentation and records pertaining to the use of Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills.
 - O. Patient care will be documented according to SLOEMSA Policy #124, Documentation of Prehospital Care.

P. Current CCR supersedes this policy.

Q. The SLOEMSA Medical Director must approve any exceptions to the requirements of this policy.

V. PROCEDURE:

A. EMS Provider Agencies who do not wish to utilize the EMT Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills must notify SLOEMSA in writing of that decision.


B. EMS Provider Agencies who would like to utilize EMT Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills need to submit the following to SLOEMSA:

1. An EMT Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills Coordinator who will be responsible for authorization oversight and compliance with policy and CCR.
2. A description of the plans for initial competency and ongoing competency verification for authorized EMTs.
3. A written procedure for ongoing EMSQIP activities specific to the use of EMT Basic Scope of Practice Additional Skills.

VI. AUTHORITY

- Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Division 9.

Approvals:

EMS Agency, Administrator	
EMS Agency, Medical Director	