

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY



TITLE: PARAMEDIC SCOPE OF PRACTICE

EMS Policy No. **2560**

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, Sections 1797et seq.; 1798, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 3.3, Section 100091.02.

DEFINITIONS: See EMS Policy No. 1100, POLICY DEFINITIONS

POLICY:

- I. The SJCEMSA paramedic scope of practice encompasses the SJCEMSA basic life support (BLS) scope practice. An SJCEMSA accredited paramedic may perform any activity identified in the scope of practice of an SJCEMSA EMT or any activity identified in the scope of practice of an Advanced EMT.
- II. An accredited paramedic shall be on duty and affiliated with an SJCEMSA approved ALS service provider in order to perform the AEMT or paramedic scope of practice.
- III. Paramedic Basic Scope of Practice: 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 (CE) 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 SJCEMSA:
 - A. Utilize electrocardiographic devices and monitor electrocardiograms, including 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECG).
 - B. Perform defibrillation, synchronized cardioversion, and external cardiac pacing.
 - C. Visualize the airway by use of laryngoscope and remove foreign body(ies) with Magill forceps.
 - D. Utilize mechanical ventilation devices for continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)/bi-level positive airway pressure (BiPAP) and positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) in the spontaneously breathing patient.
 - E. Perform pulmonary ventilation by use of lower airway multi-lumen adjuncts, the esophageal airway, perilaryngeal airways, stomal intubation, and adult oral

Effective: July 1, 2025

Supersedes: July 1, 2024

Approved:

Katherine Shafer, MD
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Medical Director

Page 1 of 3

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY



TITLE: PARAMEDIC SCOPE OF PRACTICE

EMS Policy No. **2560**

- endotracheal intubation.
- F. Institute intravenous (IV) catheters, saline locks, needles, or other cannulae (IV lines) in peripheral veins and monitor and administer medications through pre-existing vascular access.
 - 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. Obtain venous blood samples.
 - J. Use laboratory devices and point of care testing, as an ALS service provider authorized by the responsible state and federal agencies, including from the Centers for Medical and Medicaid Services pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), for pre-hospital screening use to measure lab values including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Blood glucose levels.
 - 2. Carbon monoxide levels.
 - 3. Capnometry.
 - 4. Capnography.
 - 5. Pulse Oximetry.
 - K. Utilize Valsalva maneuver.
 - L. Perform percutaneous needle cricothyroidotomy.
 - M. Perform needle thoracostomy.
 - N. Monitor thoracostomy tubes.
 - O. Monitor and adjust IV solution containing potassium equal to or less than 40 mEq/L.
 - P. Administer approved medications by the routes specified in SJCEMSA Policy No. 5700 ALS Treatment Protocols.
 - Q. Administer, using prepackaged products when available, the following medications:
 - 1. 10%, 25% and 50% dextrose.
 - 2. Acetaminophen.
 - 3. Activated charcoal – for use during interfacility transfer.
 - 4. Adenosine.
 - 5. Aerosolized or nebulized beta-2 specific bronchodilators.
 - 6. Amiodarone.
 - 7. Aspirin.
 - 8. Atropine sulfate.
 - 9. Calcium chloride.
 - 10. Diazepam – for CHEMPACK use only.
 - 11. Diphenhydramine hydrochloride.
 - 12. Dopamine hydrochloride.
 - 13. Epinephrine.

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Page 2 of 3

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TITLE: PARAMEDIC SCOPE OF PRACTICE

EMS Policy No. **2560**

14. Fentanyl.
15. Glucagon.
16. Ipratropium bromide.
17. Ketorolac.
18. Lorazepam – for use during interfacility transfer.
19. Lidocaine hydrochloride.
20. Magnesium sulfate.
21. Midazolam.
22. Morphine sulfate.
23. Naloxone hydrochloride.
24. Nitroglycerine preparations – sublingual, oral spray, topical/patch.
25. Ondansetron.
26. Pralidoxime chloride.
27. Sodium bicarbonate.
28. Tranexamic Acid.

IV. An accredited paramedic in San Joaquin County is authorized, as part of the State approved local optional scope of practice, to perform or monitor or administer the following in accordance with the written policies of SJCEMSA:

- A. Monitor heparin infusion during interfacility transport.
- B. Monitor and adjust nitroglycerine infusion during interfacility transport.
- C. Administer over the counter medications when available by the routes specified in the ALS treatment protocols:
 1. Ibuprofen.

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