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 1797.3, 1797.52, 1797.60, 1797.84, 1797.94, 1797.200, 1797.206, 1797.214, 1797.220; 1798, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Sections 100145, 100146, 100148, 100166, 100168, 100170.

DEFINITIONS:

A. "Accredited Paramedic" means a paramedic that has completed the requirements of EMS Policy No. 2540, Paramedic Accreditation, and is authorized by the SJCEMSA to perform advanced life support (ALS) within San Joaquin County.
B. "Advanced Emergency Medical Technician" or "AEMT" means a person who has successfully completed an advanced EMT course, which meets the requirements of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3 and has been certified as an AEMT by an AEMT certifying authority.
C. "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 certifying authority.
D. "Paramedic" means a person who is educated and trained in all elements of the prehospital advanced life support (ALS), and has been licensed by the State of California as a paramedic.
E. "SJCEMSA" means the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency, which is the designated local emergency medical services agency for San Joaquin County.

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 SJCEMSA 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.

Approved: Signature on file
Medical Director

Signature on file
EMS Administrator

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 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, 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.
    6. Note: ALS service providers are required to obtain appropriate authorization from responsible state and federal agencies, including from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) in order to use point of care testing devices.
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. Activated charcoal – for use during interfacility transfer.
    3. Adenosine.
    4. Aerosolized or nebulized beta-2 specific bronchodilators.
    5. Amiodarone.
    6. Aspirin.
    7. Atropine sulfate.
    8. Calcium chloride.
    9. Diazepam – for use during interfacility transfer.
    10. Diphenhydramine hydrochloride.
    11. Dopamine hydrochloride.
    12. Epinephrine.
    13. Fentanyl.
    14. Glucagon.
    15. Ipratropium bromide.
    16. Lorazepam – for use during interfacility transfer.
    17. Lidocaine hydrochloride.
    18. Magnesium sulfate.
    19. Midazolam.
    20. Morphine sulfate.
    21. Naloxone hydrochloride.
    22. Nitroglycerine preparations – sublingual, oral spray, topical/patch.
    23. Ondansetron.
    24. Pralidoxime chloride.
    25. Sodium bicarbonate.

IV. An accredited paramedic in San Joaquin County is authorized, as part of the State approved 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 using prepackaged products when available the following

medications by the routes specified in the ALS treatment protocols:

1. Acetaminophen.
2. Ibuprofen.