

State of Rhode Island

Division of Emergency Medical Services

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Functional Position Description

EMT-Basic/EMT-Cardiac/EMT-Paramedic

Introduction

We are providing the following position description for EMT-B, EMT-C and EMT-P practice. This should guide you when giving advice to anyone who is interested in understanding what qualifications, competencies and tasks are expected of these emergency medical services providers.

Qualifications:

Successfully complete a State of R.I. approved EMT Training Program. Achievement of passing scores on State EMT practical and written license examinations. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must show evidence of current certification in CPR. Generally, the knowledge and skills required show the need for a high school education or equivalent. Ability to communicate verbally; via telephone and radio equipment; ability to lift, carry and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance); ability to interpret written, oral and diagnostic form instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations; ability to be unaffected by loud noises and flashing lights; ability to function efficiently throughout an entire work shift without interruption; ability to calculate weight and volume ratios; ability to read English language manuals and road maps; accurately discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patient, family members and bystanders; ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such; ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff as to status of patient. Good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care, including but not limited to the ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; and the ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture. Ability to work in low light and confined spaces.

Competency Areas:

**The EMT-Basic**

Must be capable of performing an assessment of a patient, handling emergencies utilizing Basic Life Support equipment including but not limited to the EOA for airway control in respiratory and cardiac arrest patients, have the ability to perform CPR, control hemorrhage, provide non-invasive shock treatment, fracture and spinal stabilization, manage environmental emergencies, and emergency childbirth or other skills and procedures as set forth in the State of Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders.

### **The EMT-Cardiac:**

Must be capable of performance of all EMT-Basic skills and utilization of equipment. Must be able to supply Advanced Life Support using but not limited to intravenous therapy and the administration of appropriate medications, use a manual cardiac monitor/defibrillator and the EOA/ET airway for airway control in respiratory or cardiac arrest patients or other skills and procedures as set forth in the State of Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders.

### **The EMT-Paramedic**

Must be capable of utilizing all EMT-Basic and EMT-Cardiac skills and equipment, and be able to perform under Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support standards including but not limited to the use of cardiac monitor/defibrillator, and intravenous drugs and fluids or other skills and procedures as set forth in the State of Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders.

### **Description of Tasks:**

Receives call from dispatcher, responds verbally to emergency calls, reads maps, may drive ambulance to emergency site, uses most expeditious route, and observes traffic ordinances and regulations.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, takes pulse, blood pressure, visually observes changes in skin color, auscultates breath sounds, makes determination regarding patient status, establishes priority for emergency care, renders appropriate emergency care (based on competency level); may administer intravenous drugs or fluid replacement as directed by physician or published protocol. May use equipment (based on competency level) such as but not limited to defibrillator, electrocardiograph, performs endotracheal intubation to open airways and ventilate patient, inflates pneumatic anti-shock garment to improve patient's blood circulation.

Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patients to ambulance and on to a medical facility. Reassures patients and bystanders, avoids mishandling patient and undue haste, searches for medical identification emblem to aid in care. Extricates patient from entrapment, assesses extent of injury, uses prescribed techniques and appliances, radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services, provides light rescue service if required, provides additional emergency care following established protocols.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities, arranges for protection for property and evidence at scene. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, reports nature and extent of injuries or illness to the facility, asks for direction from hospital physician or emergency department. Observes patient en route and administers care as directed by physician or emergency department or according to published protocol. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with a facility. Assists in removing patient from ambulance and into emergency facility. Reports verbally and in writing observations about and

care of patient at the scene and en route to facility, provides assistance to emergency staff as required.

Replaces supplies, sends used supplies for sterilization, checks all equipment for future readiness, maintains ambulance in operable condition, ensures ambulance cleanliness and orderliness of equipment and supplies, decontaminates vehicle interior, determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gas, water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure, maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.

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