



Policy 208: EMS Responder Scope of Practice

Revision 1/11/18
Effective 1/1/19

- I. EMS Responders in Santa Cruz County are part of an integrated first response and transport system and are certified /licensed to one of the levels of trained medical personnel as outlined in California State regulations.
- II. Definitions
 - A. EMT-Paramedic: Paramedic or EMT-P means a person who has successfully completed an EMT-P course and has passed all required tests and has been licensed by the California EMS authority and has been locally accredited to practice in Santa Cruz County.
 - B. Emergency Medical Technician: "Emergency Medical Technician," "EMT-Basic," or "EMT" means a person who has successfully completed an EMT course and has passed all required tests and has been certified by a California EMT certifying entity.
 - C. EMT Local Accreditation: "Local accreditation" or "accreditation" or "accredited to practice" means authorization by the LEMSA to practice the optional skill(s). Such authorization assures that the EMT has been oriented to the LEMSA and trained in the optional skill(s) necessary to achieve the treatment standard of the jurisdiction.
 - D. Paramedic Local Accreditation: "Local accreditation" or "accreditation" or "accredited to practice" means authorization by the LEMSA to practice ALS procedures. Such authorization assures that the Paramedic has been oriented to the LEMSA and trained in the optional skill(s) necessary to achieve the treatment standard of the jurisdiction.
 - E. Santa Cruz County EMS provider agency: An EMS Provider agency is a public or private sector organization that utilizes EMTs and/or paramedics. This includes, but is not limited to, locally permitted ambulance services, fire agencies, lifeguard services, law enforcement agencies, and park personnel who have established training and quality assurance programs.
- III. EMT-Paramedic
 - A. EMT-Ps who are accredited by the Santa Cruz County LEMSA and who are associated with an approved Santa Cruz County ALS provider Agency, are authorized to provide basic scope BLS and ALS interventions as delineated by the California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100146c1.
 - B. EMT-P Optional Scope of Practice
 - 1. Optional Scope of Practice medications and procedures may be added at the discretion of the LEMSA Medical Director with approval of the EMSA.
 - 2. There are no optional scope items currently approved in Santa Cruz County
 - C. EMT-P Accreditation



1. EMT-P cannot practice ALS skills in Santa Cruz County without LEMSA accreditation (see Policy 201: *Paramedic Accreditation*)

IV. EMT-Basic

A. EMT Basic Scope of Practice

1. During training, while at the scene of an emergency, during transport of the sick or injured, or during interfacility transfer, a certified EMT or supervised EMT student, in accordance with Santa Cruz County EMS policies and procedures and as delineated by the California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, Section 10063., is authorized to do any of the following:
 - a) Evaluate the ill and injured.
 - b) Render basic life support, rescue and emergency medical care to patients.
 - c) Obtain diagnostic signs to include, but not be limited to, temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respiration rates, pulse oximetry, level of consciousness and pupil status.
 - d) Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including the use of mechanical adjuncts to basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 - e) Administer oxygen
 - f) Use the following adjunctive airway and breathing aids
 - (1) Oropharyngeal airway
 - (2) Nasopharyngeal airway
 - (3) Suction devices
 - (4) Basic oxygen delivery devices for supplemental oxygen therapy including, but not limited to, humidifiers, partial rebreathers, and venturi masks;
 - (5) Manual and mechanical ventilating devices designed for prehospital use including continuous positive airway pressure.
 - g) Use various types of stretchers and spinal motion restriction or immobilization devices.
 - h) Provide initial prehospital emergency care to patients, including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Bleeding control through the application of tourniquets;
 - (2) Use of hemostatic dressings from a list approved by the Authority;
 - (3) Spinal motion restriction or immobilization



- (4) Seated spinal motion restriction or immobilization
- (5) Extremity splinting;
- (6) Traction splinting
- (7) Administer oral glucose or sugar solutions
- (8) Extricate entrapped persons
- (9) Perform field triage
- (10) Transport patients
- (11) Apply mechanical patient restraint
- (12) Set up for ALS procedures, under the direction of an Advanced EMT or Paramedic
- (13) Perform automated external defibrillation.
- (14) Assist patients with the administration of physician-prescribed devices including, but not limited to, patient-operated medication pumps, sublingual nitroglycerin, and self-administered emergency medications, including epinephrine devices.

B. Expanded Scope of Practice

- 1. A certified EMT or a supervised EMT student who is part of the organized Santa Cruz County EMS provider agency, and in the prehospital setting and/or during interfacility transport are also authorized to:
 - a) Monitor IV lines delivering glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions for volume replacement, and monitor, maintain, or adjust to maintain a preset rate of flow and to turn off the flow of IV fluid when indicated.
 - b) Initiate and administer Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
 - c) Administer **Narcan** by intranasal or intramuscular routes in suspected narcotics over dose cases
 - d) Perform finger stick blood glucose testing
 - e) Administer **Epinephrine** by auto injector for suspected anaphylaxis or severe asthma
 - f) Administer over the counter medications to include **Aspirin** to patients presenting with chest pain of cardiac origin
- 2. Certified EMTs who are not associated with a Santa Cruz County EMS provider agency, are not authorized to perform expanded scope of practice skills.



- a) Exception: Non-Santa Cruz County EMTs who are responding as part of an organized mutual aid effort into Santa Cruz County and who have been authorized to perform some or all of these procedures by their medical director at their home agency.

C. Optional Skills for Santa Cruz County Accredited EMTs

1. An accredited and certified EMT or a supervised EMT student who is part of a Santa Cruz County EMS provider agency which has been authorized to perform EMT optional skills per Policy 305: Agency Approval for EMT Optional Skills, and in the prehospital setting and/or during interfacility transport are also authorized to:
 - a) Use of perilyngeal airways
 - b) Administration of **Epinephrine** by prefilled syringe and/or drawing up the proper drug dose into a syringe for suspected anaphylaxis and/or severe asthma.
 - c) Administration of **Atropine**/Pralidoxime Chloride (HAZMAT team only)
2. Certified EMTs who are not accredited and/or associated with an authorized EMS provider agency per Policy 305: *Agency Approval for EMT Optional Skills*, are not authorized to perform optional skills under this section.
 - a) Exception: Non-Santa Cruz County EMTs who are responding as part of an organized mutual aid effort into Santa Cruz County and who have been authorized to perform some or all of these procedures by their medical director at their home agency.

V. First Responder (FA/CPR)

- A. FA/CPR personnel (fire fighters, lifeguards, and law enforcement officers) are approved to provide the skills as authorized in California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 1.5 Section 100018. In addition, following completion of approved modules, FA/CPR personnel may provide the following optional skills as listed in Section 10019:
1. Administration of **Epinephrine** by auto injector for suspected anaphylaxis
 2. Oxygen administration
 3. Application of bag-valve-mask ventilation, and the use of OPAs and NPAs to support airway management
 4. Administration of **Naloxone** for suspected opioid overdose.