



EMS TRAINING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION MANUAL

Policy Number: T-630	Page: 1	of: 2
Title: Paramedic Certification Program Description		
Regulatory Authority: 12VAC5-31-1320, 12VAC5-31-1040		
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The Paramedic's scope of practice includes basic and advanced skills focused on the acute management and transportation of the broad range of patients who access the emergency medical system. This may occur at an emergency scene until transportation resources arrive, from an emergency scene to a health care facility, between health care facilities, or in other health care settings.

In some communities, Paramedics provide a large portion of the out-of-hospital care and represent the highest level of out-of-hospital care. In communities that use emergency medical dispatch systems, Paramedics may be part of a tiered response system. In all cases, Paramedics work alongside other EMS and health care professionals as an integral part of the emergency care team.

The Paramedic's scope of practice includes invasive and pharmacological interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with acute out-of-hospital medical and traumatic emergencies. Emergency care is based on an advanced assessment and the formulation of a field impression. The Paramedic provides care designed to minimize secondary injury and provide comfort to the patient and family while transporting the patient to an appropriate health care facility.

The Paramedic has knowledge, skills, and abilities developed by appropriate formal education and training. The Paramedic has the knowledge associated with, and is expected to be competent in, all of the skills of the EMR, EMT, AEMT and Intermediate. The Paramedic has the ability to perform a broader range of advanced skills. These skills carry a greater risk for the patient if improperly or inappropriately performed, are more difficult to attain and maintain competency in, and require significant background knowledge in basic and applied sciences.

The Paramedic is the minimum certification level for patients requiring the full range of advanced out-of-hospital care. The scope of practice is limited to advanced skills that are effective and can be performed safely in an out-of-hospital setting with medical oversight.

The Paramedic transports all emergency patients to an appropriate medical facility. The Paramedic serves as part of an EMS response system, ensuring a progressive increase in the level of assessment and care. The Paramedic may make destination decisions in collaboration with medical oversight. The principal disposition of the patient encounter will result in the direct delivery of the patient to an acute care facility.

In addition to emergency response, Paramedics often perform medical transport services of patients requiring care within their scope of practice.

A. Initial Certification Program

1. **Didactic** - The Paramedic initial certification program consists of a minimum of 706 hours of didactic and lab instruction.
2. **Clinical Behavior/Judgment** - The Paramedic initial certification program consists of a minimum of 136 hours of clinical/field rotations.

B. Virginia EMS Education Standards

1. For courses ending on or after January 1, 2012, the Paramedic program content will be derived from the Virginia EMS Education Standards (VEMSES) or a bridge program curriculum approved by the Office.

C. Course Content - The Paramedic course must minimally adhere to the Virginia EMS Education Standards (VEMSES) and any additions, deletions or other modifications approved by the Office.

D. Certification - Paramedic certification will be awarded as described in **T-234**.

E. Scope of Practice - Paramedics will be trained and proficient in the procedures and medications outlined in the Virginia Scope of Practice. Reference **T-200**.