

 <b>COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO</b> EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	MEDICAL CONTROL		<b>P-401</b>
	<b>PARAMEDIC SCOPE OF PRACTICE</b>		
	Date: 7/1/2026		Page 1 of 3

## I. PURPOSE

To identify the scope of practice of Paramedics in San Diego County.

**II. AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.172 and 1798; and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 3.3, Section 100091.02.

## III. POLICY

- A.** A Paramedic may perform any activity identified in the scope of practice of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or any activity identified in the scope of practice of an Advanced EMT (AEMT) (see County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) Policy B-450 “EMT Scope of Practice” and Policy B-451 “Advanced EMT Scope of Practice”).
- B.** A licensed Paramedic shall be affiliated with an approved paramedic service provider in order to perform the scope of practice specified in this Policy.
- C.** A licensed Paramedic or a Paramedic student, as part of an organized EMS system, while caring for patients in a hospital as part of their training or continuing education, under the 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 is authorized to do all of the following:
  1. Utilize electrocardiographic devices and monitor electrocardiograms, including 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECG)
  2. Perform defibrillation, synchronized cardioversion, and external cardiac pacing
  3. Visualize the airway by use of the laryngoscope and remove foreign body(ies) with Magill forceps
  4. Perform pulmonary ventilation by use of perilaryngeal airways, stomal intubations, and adult oral endotracheal intubation
  5. Utilize mechanical ventilation devices for continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) in the spontaneously breathing patient

**San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office**  
**Policy / Procedure / Protocol**

6. Institute intravenous (IV) catheters, saline locks, needles, or other cannula (IV lines) in peripheral veins, and monitor and administer medications through pre-existing vascular access
7. Institute intraosseous (IO) needles or catheters
8. Administer IV or IO glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions, including Ringer's lactate
9. Obtain venous blood samples
10. Use laboratory devices, including point of care testing, for pre-hospital screening use to measure lab values including, but not limited to glucose, capnometry, capnography, and carbon monoxide when appropriate authorization is obtained from State and Federal agencies, including from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)
11. Utilize Valsalva maneuver
12. Perform needle thoracostomy
13. Perform nasogastric and orogastric tube insertion and suction
14. Monitor thoracostomy tubes
15. Monitor and adjust IV solutions containing potassium, equal to or less than 40 mEq/L
16. Administer approved medications by the following routes: IV, IO, intramuscular, subcutaneous, inhalation, transcutaneous, rectal, sublingual, endotracheal, intranasal, oral or topical
17. Administer, using prepackaged products when available, the following medications:
  - a. 10%, 25%, and 50% dextrose
  - b. Acetaminophen (IV)
  - c. Activated charcoal
  - d. Adenosine
  - e. Aerosolized or nebulized beta-2 specific bronchodilators (e.g., albuterol, levalbuterol)
  - f. Amiodarone
  - g. Aspirin
  - h. Atropine sulfate
  - i. Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®)
  - j. Calcium chloride
  - k. Diazepam – requires completion of specialized training
  - l. Diphenhydramine hydrochloride
  - m. Epinephrine
  - n. Fentanyl
  - o. Glucagon
  - p. Ipratropium bromide
  - q. Ketamine
  - r. Lidocaine hydrochloride
  - s. Magnesium sulfate

**San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office  
Policy / Procedure / Protocol**

- t. Midazolam
  - u. Morphine sulfate
  - v. Naloxone hydrochloride
  - w. Nitroglycerin preparations (excluding IV)
  - x. Ondansetron
  - y. Pralidoxime chloride (2-PAM chloride) – requires completion of specialized training
  - z. Sodium bicarbonate
  - aa. Tranexamic acid
18. Utilize additional skills and/or medications that are approved as Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) or included as part of a pilot study as determined by the CoSD EMS Medical Director in accordance with Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.214.