

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Paramedic Scope of Practice

POLICY NO: P-401

PAGE: 1 of 3

DATE: July 1, 2021

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.172 and 1798.

I. PURPOSE

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

II. POLICY

- A.** A Paramedic may perform any activity identified in the scope of practice of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Advanced EMT (AEMT) in Chapter 2 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.
- B.** A Paramedic student or a currently licensed Paramedic affiliated with an approved Paramedic service provider, while caring for patients in a hospital as part of his/her 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, may, in accordance with the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) policies, procedures, and protocols, perform the following procedures and administer the following medications:
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/bodies with forceps
 4. Perform pulmonary ventilation by use of the lower airway multi-lumen adjuncts (esophageal tracheal airway device (ETAD), perilaryngeal airways, stomal intubations, and oral endotracheal intubation (adult)
 5. Utilize mechanical ventilation devices for continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Paramedic Scope of Practice

POLICY NO: P-401

PAGE: 2 of 3

DATE: July 1, 2021

6. Institute intravenous (IV) catheters, needles, or other cannulae (IV lines) in peripheral veins, institute saline locks, and monitor and administer medications through pre-existing vascular access
7. Administer intravenous glucose solutions or isotonic salt solutions
8. Obtain capillary and venous blood samples
9. Use laboratory devices for pre-hospital screening to measure lab values including:
 - a. Blood glucose monitors
 - b. Capnometry
 - c. Capnography
 - d. Carbon monoxide monitors
10. Perform Valsalva maneuver
11. Perform nasogastric intubation and gastric suction
12. Perform needle thoracostomy
13. Monitor thoracostomy tubes
14. Perform intraosseous needle placement
15. Monitor, adjust, and maintain IV solutions containing potassium equal to or less than 40 mEq/L
16. Administer, using prepackaged products when available, the following medications utilizing the listed routes: intravenous, intramuscular, intraosseous, subcutaneous, transcutaneous, rectal, sublingual, endotracheal, nebulizer, aerosolizer, metered dose inhaler, oral topical, or intranasal:
 - a. 10%, 25% and 50% dextrose
 - b. Acetaminophen, IV
 - c. Activated charcoal
 - d. Adenosine
 - e. Albuterol
 - f. Amiodarone
 - g. Aspirin
 - h. Atropine Sulfate
 - i. Calcium Chloride
 - j. Diazepam – requires completion of specialized training

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Paramedic Scope of Practice

POLICY NO: P-401

PAGE: 3 of 3

DATE: July 1, 2021

- k. Diphenhydramine
 - l. Epinephrine
 - m. Fentanyl
 - n. Glucagon
 - o. Ipratropium bromide
 - p. Ketamine
 - q. Lidocaine hydrochloride
 - r. Midazolam
 - s. Morphine sulfate
 - t. Naloxone hydrochloride
 - u. Nitroglycerine preparation (excluding IV)
 - v. Ondansetron
 - w. Pralidoxime chloride (2 PAM chloride) – requires completion of specialized training
 - x. Sodium Bicarbonate
17. Perform any prehospital emergency medical care treatment procedure(s) or administer any medication(s) on a trial basis when approved by the Medical Director of the local EMS. Study procedure shall be as defined in Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4 of the California Code of Regulations.