

NOTICES

Prehospital Practitioner Scope of Practice

[41 Pa.B. 1976]

[Saturday, April 9, 2011]

Under 28 Pa. Code §§ 1003.21(c)(13), 1003.22(e)(3), 1003.23(f), 1003.24(e) and 1003.25(b) and (c), the Department of Health (Department) is publishing the scope of practice for ambulance attendants, first responders, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), EMT—paramedics (EMT-Ps) and prehospital registered nurses (PHRNs) under 35 Pa.C.S. §§ 8101—8157 (relating to Emergency Medical Services System Act).

Skills identified may be performed by a prehospital practitioner at the practitioner's level of certification/recognition only if the practitioner has successfully completed training (cognitive, affective and psychomotor) on the specified skill, which includes training to perform the skill on adults, children and infants, as appropriate.

A PHRN with medical command authorization may perform, in addition to those services within an EMT-Ps scope of practice, other services authorized by The Professional Nursing Law (63 P. S. §§ 211—225.5), when authorized by a medical command physician through either online medical command or standing medical treatment protocols. To administer drugs in addition to those permitted by applicable medical treatment protocols, a PHRN must also have received approval to do so by the advanced life support service medical director of the advanced life support ambulance service under which the PHRN is functioning.

This list supercedes the list of skills in the scope of practice of prehospital personnel published at 38 Pa.B. 6565 (November 29, 2008). Two changes have been made. The changes are as follows:

Removing MAST as an approved treatment.

Adding Transport Ventilators for use by ALS providers and Carbon Monoxide Co-oximetry monitoring.

Persons with a disability who require an alternate format of this notice (for example, large print, audiotape, Braille) should contact Robert Cooney, Emergency Medical Services System Act, Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Room 606, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0710, (717) 787-8740. Speech or hearing impaired persons may call by using V/TT (717) 783-6154 or the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TT).

ELI N. AVILA, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM,
Acting Secretary

Yes—The skill is in the scope of practice for the level of certification

No—The skill is not in the scope of practice for the level of certification

1. May assist higher level practitioner only when in the physical
2. Additional training and approval by service medical director required
3. The skill may be performed by BLS personnel in accordance with Statewide BLS protocols or medical command order
4. The skill is not approved for the level of certification regardless if taught in a course approved for that level of certification
5. The acronym is explained following the table.
6. Skill may only be used when functioning with a licensed ambulance service or QRS that complies with Department requirement for performing this skill.
7. May only be done as a physician extender under the Medical Practice Act.
8. FDA Approved Hemostatic Agents enclosed in self contained package during treatment

AA—Ambulance Attendant

FR—First Responder

EMT—Emergency Medical Technician presence and under the direct supervision of the ALS practitioner

EMT-P—Emergency Medical Technician—Paramedic

TOPIC	SKILL	AA	FR	EMT	EMT-P
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Airway—Nonsurgical Alternative/Rescue Airway— CombiTube™, King LT-D Airway™ or King LTS-D Airway	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Airway—oral & nasal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Airway—pharyngeal tracheal lumen (PTL)	No	No	No	No ⁴
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Bag-valve-ETT/Non surgical alternative airway ventilation	No	Yes ¹	Yes ¹	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Bag-valve-mask—with in-line small- volume nebulizer	No	Yes ¹	Yes ¹	Yes

Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Bag-valve-mask (BVM) ventilation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Chest decompression—needle	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	CPAP/BiPAP ⁵ —demonstrate application of	No	No	Yes ^{2,3,6}	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Cricoid pressure (Sellick maneuver)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Cricothyrotomy—needle	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Cricothyrotomy—open/surgical	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Cricothyrotomy—overwire (Seldinger) technique	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	End tidal CO ₂ monitoring/capnography	No	Yes ¹	Yes ¹	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Esophageal obturator airway (EOA)/esophageal gastric tube airway (EGTA)	No	No	No	No ⁴
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Extubation	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Flow restricted oxygen powered ventilation device (demand valve)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Gastric decompression—OG ⁵ & NG ⁵ tube (suction)	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Gastric tube insertion—nasal & oral	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Head-tilt/chin-lift	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Inspiratory Impedance Threshold Device (ITD)	No	No	No	Yes ²
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Intubation—digital & lighted stylet	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Intubation—endotracheal tube	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Intubation—medication paralytics assisted (RSI ⁵)	No	No	No	No ⁴
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Intubation—nasotracheal & orotracheal	No	No	No ⁴	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Intubation—retrograde	No	No	No	No ⁴
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Intubation—transillumination/lighted stylet	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Jaw thrust & modified jaw thrust (trauma)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Laryngeal mask airway (LMA)	No	No	No	No ⁴
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Mouth-to-mouth, nose, stoma, barrier & pocket mask	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Obstruction—direct laryngoscopy (remove with forceps)	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Obstruction—manual (Heimlich, finger sweep, chest thrusts) upper airway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—blow-by delivery	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—humidifiers	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—nasal cannula	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—non-rebreather mask	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—partial rebreather	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—regulators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—simple face mask	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Oxygen therapy—Venturi mask	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Peak expiratory flow assessment	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Pulse oximetry	Yes ¹	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Suctioning—meconium aspiration	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Suctioning—stoma/tracheostomy	No	No	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Suctioning—tracheobronchial	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Suctioning—upper airway (nasal)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Suctioning—upper airway (oral)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Transtracheal jet ventilation	No	No	No	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Ventilators—automated transport (ATV)	Yes ¹	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes
Airway/ventilation/ oxygenation	Ventilators—transport	No	No	No	Yes
Assessment of	Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Assessment of	Level of consciousness (LOC)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assessment of	Patient assessment skills identified in the NSC ⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assessment of	Vital sign—body temperature	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assessment of	Vital sign—pulse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assessment of	Vital sign—pupils	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assessment of	Vital sign—respirations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assessment of	Vital sign—skin color/temperature & condition (CTC)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Blood pressure—auscultation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Blood pressure—electronic non-invasive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Blood pressure—palpation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Cardiac monitoring—apply electrodes	No	Yes ¹	Yes ¹	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Cardiac monitoring—multi lead	No	No	No	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Cardiac monitoring—single lead (interpretive)	No	No	No	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) adult, infant, child, one & two person	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Cardioversion—synchronized	No	No	No	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Carotid massage (vagal maneuvers)	No	No	No	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Defibrillation—Counter shock—manual	No	No	No	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Defibrillation—automated external defibrillator (AED)	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Hemodynamic monitoring/assist (Swan Ganz, arterial, central venous lines)	No	No	No	No ⁴
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Intra-aortic balloon pump monitoring/assist	No	No	No	No ⁴
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Mechanical CPR device	No	No	No	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Thrombolytic therapy—initiation	No	No	No	No ⁴
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Thrombolytic therapy—monitoring	No	No	No	No ⁴
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Transcutaneous pacing	No	No	No	Yes
Cardiovascular/ circulation	Use a (cardiac) magnet to alter the mode of an AICD ⁵ or pacemaker	No	No	No	Yes

Communications	Verbal patient report to receiving personnel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Communications	Communications with PSAPs ⁵ , hospitals, medical command facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Documentation	Out-of-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders (Act #59)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Documentation	Patient Care Report completion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hazardous materials	Contaminated equipment disposal (sharps & PPE ⁵)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hazardous materials	Decontamination	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hazardous materials	Disinfection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hazardous materials	PPE ⁵ (personal protection equipment) use	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Immobilization	Spinal immobilization—helmet stabilization or removal	No	No	Yes	Yes
Immobilization	Spinal immobilization—long board w/pt supine & standing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Immobilization	Spinal immobilization—manual stabilization & cervical collar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Immobilization	Spinal immobilization—rapid extrication	No	No	Yes	Yes
Immobilization	Spinal immobilization—seated patient (KED ⁵ , etc.)	No	No	Yes	Yes
Immobilization	Splinting—manual, ridged, soft, vacuum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Immobilization	Splinting—traction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Central venous cannulation (femoral vein only)	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Central venous line—access of existing catheters	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Clean technique	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	External jugular vein cannulation	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Heparin/saline lock insertions as no-flow IV	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Indwelling intravenous catheters as described 28 Pa. Code § 1003.23(e)(2)	No	No	Yes	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Intraosseous—needle placement & infusion—tibia, femur and humerus	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Peripheral venous—initiation (cannulation)	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Sub-cutaneous indwelling catheters—access of existing catheters	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Vascular access devices in home healthcare—access of existing catheters	No	No	No	Yes

IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Venous (blood sampling)—obtaining	No	No	No	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Venous central line (blood sampling)— obtaining	No	No	No	No ⁴
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Arterial line—capped—transport	No	No	Yes	Yes
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Arterial line—monitoring/assist	No	No	No	No ⁴
IV Initiation/ maintenance/fluids	Blood/Blood—by-products	No	No	No	No ⁴
Lifting & moving	Patient lifting, moving & transfers per NSC ⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lifting & moving	Patient restraints on transport devices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medication administration routes	Endotracheal tube (ET)	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Inhalation (aerosolized/nebulized)	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Intramuscular (IM)	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Intranasal	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Intraosseous—tibia, humerus or femur	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Intravenous (IV)—bolus	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Intravenous (IV) infusion, including by intravenous pump	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Nasogastric	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Oral	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Rectal	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Subcutaneous	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Sub-lingual	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Topical	No	No	No	Yes
Medication administration routes	Auto-injectors	No	No	Yes ³	Yes
Medications	Activated charcoal	No	No	Yes ³	Yes
Medications	As published in the <i>Pennsylvania Bulletin</i> by the Department	No	No	No	Yes
Medications	Immunizations	No	No	No	Yes ⁷

Medications	Oral glucose	No	No	Yes ³	Yes
Medications	Over-the-counter medications (OTC)	No	No	No	No ⁴
Medications	Oxygen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medications	Auto-injected epinephrine—primary use—not patient's own prescription	No	No	Yes ^{2,3,6}	Yes
Medications—Patient Assisted	Auto-injected epinephrine	No	No	Yes ³	Yes
Medications—Patient Assisted	Metered dose inhaler (MDI)—bronchodilator	No	No	Yes ³	Yes
Medications—Patient Assisted	Nitroglycerin	No	No	Yes ³	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Behavioral—Restrain violent patient	No	No	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Blood glucose assessment	No	No	No	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Burns—chemical, electrical, inhalation, radiation, thermal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Childbirth—umbilical cord cutting	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Childbirth (abnormal/complications)	No	No	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Childbirth (normal)—cephalic delivery	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Carbon Monoxide CO—oximetry monitoring	Yes ¹	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes ²
Patient assessment/management	Dislocation reduction (shoulder)	No	No	No	No ⁴
Patient assessment/management	Eye irrigation/care	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Hemorrhage control—diffuse, direct, pressure point, tourniquet, bandaging, hemostatic agents ⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Intracranial monitoring/assist	No	No	No	No ⁴
Patient assessment/management	As outlined in DOH approved regional & statewide tx ⁵ & transport protocols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI)/Incident Command System (ICS)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Triage (prioritizing patients)—use of tags	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patient assessment/management	Urinary catheterization	No	No	No	Yes
Rescue	Vehicle access & extrication	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Acronym Explanation

AICD	Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators
CPAP/BiPAP	Continuous positive airway pressure/biphasic positive airway pressure
KED	Kendrick Extrication Device
NSC	U.S. Department of Transportation National Standard Curriculum
OG & NG	Oral gastric & nasal gastric tube
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PSAP	Public safety answering point
RSI	Rapid sequence induction
TX	Treatment

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