

VI. Interpretive Guidelines

The interpretive guidelines are used to help guide the users of this document by providing additional insight into the discussions and deliberations that revolved around the decisions of the expert panel. These interpretive guidelines represent the collective opinions of the expert panel in June 2018 prior to incorporation of Change Notices 1.0 and 2.0 from March 29, 2021.

The interpretive guidelines are included to allow future users to apply similar methodology in deciding appropriateness of new interventions at each personnel level. They are illustrative and NOT all-inclusive.

I. Skill – Airway/Ventilation/Oxygenation

I. Skill – Airway/Ventilation/ Oxygenation	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Airway – nasal		X	X	X
Airway – oral	X	X	X	X
Airway – supraglottic			X	X
Bag-valve-mask (BVM)	X	X	X	X
CPAP		X	X	X
Chest decompression - needle				X
Chest tube placement – assist only				X
Chest tube – monitoring and management				X
Cricothyrotomy				X
End tidal CO ₂ monitoring and interpretation of waveform capnography			X	X
Gastric decompression – NG Tube				X
Gastric decompression – OG Tube				X
Head tilt - chin lift	X	X	X	X
Endotracheal intubation				X
Jaw-thrust	X	X	X	X

I. Skill – Airway/Ventilation/ Oxygenation	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Mouth-to-barrier	X	X	X	X
Mouth-to-mask	X	X	X	X
Mouth-to-mouth	X	X	X	X
Mouth-to-nose	X	X	X	X
Mouth-to-stoma	X	X	X	X
Airway obstruction – dislodgement by direct laryngoscopy				X
Airway obstruction – manual dislodgement techniques	X	X	X	X
Oxygen therapy – High flow nasal cannula				X
Oxygen therapy – Humidifiers		X	X	X
Oxygen therapy – Nasal cannula	X	X	X	X
Oxygen therapy – Non-rebreather mask	X	X	X	X
Oxygen therapy – partial rebreather mask		X	X	X
Oxygen therapy – simple face mask		X	X	X
Oxygen therapy – Venturi mask		X	X	X
Pulse oximetry		X	X	X
Suctioning – Upper airway	X	X	X	X
Suctioning – tracheobronchial of an intubated patient			X	X

II. Skill – Cardiovascular/Circulation

II. Skill – Cardiovascular/ Circulation	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)	X	X	X	X

II. Skill – Cardiovascular/ Circulation	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Cardiac monitoring – 12-lead ECG acquisition and transmission		X	X	X
Cardiac monitoring – 12-lead electrocardiogram (interpretive)				X
Cardioversion – electrical				X
Defibrillation – automated / semi-automated	X	X	X	X
Defibrillation – manual				X
Hemorrhage control – direct pressure	X	X	X	X
Hemorrhage control – tourniquet	X	X	X	X
Hemorrhage control – wound packing	X	X	X	X
Transvenous cardiac pacing – monitoring and maintenance				X
Mechanical CPR device		X	X	X
Telemetric monitoring devices and transmission of clinical data, including video data		X	X	X
Transcutaneous pacing				X

III. Skill – Splinting, Spinal Motion Restriction, and Patient Restraint

III. Skill – Splinting, Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR), and Patient Restraint	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Cervical collar	X	X	X	X
Long spine board		X	X	X
Manual cervical stabilization	X	X	X	X
Seated SMR (KED, etc.)		X	X	X
Extremity stabilization - manual	X	X	X	X
Extremity splinting	X	X	X	X

III. Skill – Splinting, Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR), and Patient Restraint	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Splint – traction		X	X	X
Mechanical patient restraint		X	X	X
Emergency moves for endangered patients	X	X	X	X

IV. Skill – Medication Administration – Routes

IV. Skill – Medication Administration – Routes³	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Aerosolized/nebulized		X	X	X
Endotracheal tube				X
Inhaled		X	X	X
Intradermal				X
Intramuscular		X ⁴	X	X
Intramuscular – auto-injector	X	X	X	X
Intranasal			X	X
Intranasal - unit-dosed, premeasured	X	X	X	X
Intraosseous – initiation, peds or adult			X	X
Intravenous			X	X
Mucosal/sublingual		X	X	X
Nasogastric				X
Oral		X	X	X

³ Limited to Medical Director Approved Medications.

⁴ Medical direction should ensure appropriate clinical experience and education, including the separate skills of medication preparation, medication dilution, filling a syringe from a multi-dose vial, and changing the needle on a syringe.

IV. Skill – Medication Administration – Routes³	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Rectal				X
Subcutaneous			X	X
Topical				X
Transdermal				X

V. Medical Director Approved Medications

V. Medical Director Approved Medications	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Use of epinephrine (auto-injector) for anaphylaxis (supplied and carried by the EMS agency)		X	X	X
Use of auto-injector antidotes for chemical/hazardous material exposures	X	X	X	X
Use of opioid antagonist auto-injector for suspected opioid overdose	X	X	X	X
Immunizations			X	X
Immunizations during a public health emergency		X	X	X
Inhaled – beta agonist/bronchodilator and anticholinergic for dyspnea and wheezing		X	X	X
Inhaled – monitor patient administered (i.e., nitrous oxide)			X	X
Intranasal - opioid antagonist for suspected opioid overdose	X	X	X	X
Intravenous			X ⁵	X
Maintain infusion of blood or blood products				X
Oral aspirin for chest pain of suspected ischemic origin		X	X	X
Oral glucose for suspected hypoglycemia		X	X	X

⁵ Limited to analgesia, antinausea/antiemetic, dextrose, epinephrine, glucagon, naloxone, and others defined by State/local protocol.

V. Medical Director Approved Medications	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Oral over-the-counter (OTC) analgesics for pain or fever		X	X	X
OTC medications, oral and topical				X
Parenteral analgesia for pain			X	X
Sublingual nitroglycerin for chest pain of suspected ischemic origin – limited to <i>patient's own prescribed medication</i>		X		
Sublingual nitroglycerin for chest pain of suspected ischemic origin			X	X
Thrombolytics				X

VI. Skill – IV Initiation/Maintenance Fluids

VI. Skill – IV Initiation/Maintenance Fluids	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Access indwelling catheters and implanted central IV ports				X
Central line – monitoring				X
Intraosseous – initiation, peds or adult			X	X
Intravenous access			X	X
Intravenous initiation - peripheral			X	X
Intravenous – maintenance of non-medicated IV fluids			X	X
Intravenous – maintenance of medicated IV fluids				X

VII. Skill – Miscellaneous

VII. Skill – Miscellaneous	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Assisted delivery (childbirth)	X	X	X	X
Assisted complicated delivery (childbirth)		X	X	X

VII. Skill – Miscellaneous	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Blood chemistry analysis				X
Blood pressure automated		X	X	X
Blood pressure – manual	X	X	X	X
Blood glucose monitoring		X	X	X
Eye irrigation	X	X	X	X
Eye irrigation –hands free irrigation using sterile eye irrigation device				X
Patient transport		X	X	X
Specimen collection via nasal swab ⁶		X	X	X
Venous blood sampling			X	X

⁶ Medical direction should ensure appropriate clinical experience to obtain an acceptable specimen in order to minimize inaccurate results.