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Maine EMS
EMS Provider Functional Position Description
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I. Introduction

The following is a functional position description for a Maine EMS provider. This information may also be used to give advice to anyone who is interested in understanding what qualifications, competencies, and tasks are expected of EMS personnel.

II. Qualifications of an Emergency Medical Services Provider

1. Completion of:

- a. A Maine EMS-approved program-leading-to-licensure as defined within the Maine EMS rules; and,
- b. The cognitive and practical skills evaluation components of the Maine EMS State licensing exam for the specific license level.

2. Be eighteen years of age:

- a. For licensure at the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level or provide proof of parental consent if the applicant is less than eighteen years of age but who is at least sixteen years of age. Persons less than 18 years of age cannot participate in medical response operations or medical response observation, except when Maine EMS has approved the service's supervision plan for such persons and in accordance with Maine Department of Labor rules governing employment for minors.
- b. To receive a license at any level above the EMT level.

3. Generally, the knowledge and skills required of EMS providers show the need for a high school education or equivalent.

4. Possess the ability to:

- a. Communicate verbally with other personnel, via radio and telephone equipment
- b. Interpret written, oral, and diagnostic form instructions
- c. Use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations
- d. Be unaffected by loud noises and flashing lights

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- e. Function efficiently throughout a continuous work shift without interruption.
 - f. Read English language manuals, road maps, and accurately discern street signs and address numbers
 - g. Calculate weight and volume ratios
 - h. Interview patient, family members and bystanders
 - i. Document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such
 - j. Converse in English with co-workers and hospital staff as to status of patient
5. Possess good manual dexterity, with ability to:
- a. Perform all tasks related to the highest quality patient care
 - b. Lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds or 250 pounds with assistance
 - c. Bend, stoop and crawl on uneven terrain
 - d. Withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold and moisture
 - e. Work in confined spaces.
6. Not suffer from a condition or impairment (including, but not limited to, substance abuse, alcohol abuse, or a mental, emotional or nervous disorder or condition) that in any way affects the EMS provider's ability to perform his or her duties in a competent and safe manner. (The mere fact of treatment for medical, mental health or addiction(s) is not, in itself, a basis for disqualification from the practice of EMS when an individual has demonstrated personal responsibility and maturity in dealing with these issues.)

III. Competency Areas

1. **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) through Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)** – Demonstrates competency in assessing a patient, handling emergencies utilizing Basic Life Support equipment and procedures within their specific licensure level; have the ability to perform CPR, control hemorrhage, provide non-invasive shock treatment, fracture and spinal stabilization, manage environmental emergencies, emergency childbirth, and use of semi-automatic defibrillator (AED).
2. **Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)** – Demonstrates competency in performing all of the above EMT skills and equipment use. Demonstrates competency in performing advanced life support airway techniques approved by the Maine EMS Board; IV/IO therapy (non-medicated fluids); blood sampling; cardiac monitoring/defibrillation (AED and manual); administration of medications in accordance with the Maine EMS Prehospital Treatment Protocols; and any other practices approved by the Maine EMS Board.
3. **EMT-Critical Care (EMT-CC)** – Demonstrates competency in performing all of the above EMT and AEMT skills and equipment use. Must be capable of performing Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) procedures and standards, and any other practices approved by the Maine EMS Board.

4. **Paramedic** – Must be capable of performing all of the above EMR, EMT, AEMT and EMT-CC skills and equipment use. Must be capable of performing chest decompression, transtracheal jet insufflation, surgical cricothyrotomy, gastric tube placement and any other practices approved by the Maine EMS Board. The Paramedic is the highest level of pre-hospital licensure.

IV. Description of Tasks

This is a generalized summary of tasks an EMS provider may perform:

1. Receives call from a dispatcher, responds verbally to emergency calls, reads maps, may be either driver or attendant of the ambulance while responding to the scene, uses most expeditious route and observes traffic ordinances and regulations relative to emergency vehicle operations.
2. Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, takes pulse, blood pressure, assesses respiratory status, visually observes changes in skin color, determines patient status, establishes priority for emergency care, renders appropriate emergency care (based upon competency level); may administer medications or fluid replacement as established through written protocol or on-line medical control. May use equipment (based upon competency level) such as, but not limited to, ECG monitor, defibrillation and endotracheal intubation.
3. Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patients to the ambulance and ultimately to a medical facility. Reassures patient, family members, and bystanders. Avoids mishandling patient. Searches for medical alert identification. Extricates patient from an entrapment, assesses extent of injury. Uses established and accepted emergency medical techniques, procedures, and devices.
4. Reports nature and extent of illness or injury to receiving facility via radio. Establishes on-line medical control as needed. Continually reassesses patient while en route to medical facility, providing care as needed.
5. Assists in the removal of the patient from the ambulance at the receiving facility and moves the patient to the emergency department or other assigned area within the facility. Facilitates the transfer of patient care by reporting, both verbally and in writing, to the person responsible for patient care at the receiving facility.
6. Replaces used supplies and cleans equipment as appropriate. Checks all equipment for future readiness and maintains ambulance in an operable condition.