



New York State
Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

POLICY STATEMENT

Supersedes/Updates: Policy Statement 92-04

No. 00-10

Date: 09/25/00

Re: EMT-B / AEMT

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Functional Position Description
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B)
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

Purpose:

Provide a guide for those who are interested in understanding what qualifications, competencies and tasks are expected of the EMT-B and/or the AEMT.

Qualifications:

- Complete the *Application for Emergency Medical Services Certification* (DOH-65), including affirmation regarding criminal convictions
- Successfully complete an approved New York State EMT-B or AEMT course
- Achieve a passing score on the practical and written certification examinations
- Must be at least 18 years of age prior to the last day of the month in which they are scheduled to take the written certification examination
- Knowledge and Skills required show need for high school or equivalent education
- Ability to communicate effectively via telephone and radio equipment
- Ability to lift, carry and balance up to 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance)
- Ability to interpret oral, written and diagnostic form instructions
- Ability to use good judgement and remain calm in high stress situations
- Ability to be unaffected by loud noises and flashing lights
- Ability to function efficiently without interruption throughout an entire work shift
- Ability to calculate weight and volume ratios
- Ability to read English language, manuals and road maps
- Ability to accurately discern street signs and addresses
- Ability to interview patients, patient family members and bystanders
- Ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such
- Ability to converse, in English, with coworkers and hospital staff with regard to the status of the patient
- Possesses good manual dexterity with ability to perform all tasks related to the highest quality patient care
- Ability to bend, stoop and crawl on uneven terrain
- Ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold and moisture
- Ability to work in low light situations and confined spaces
- Ability to work with other providers to make appropriate patient care decisions

Competency Areas:

The EMT-B

Must demonstrate competency in assessment of a patient, handling emergencies using Basic Life Support equipment and techniques. Must be able to perform CPR, control bleeding, provide non-invasive treatment of hypoperfusion, stabilize / immobilize injured bones and the spine, manage environmental emergencies and emergency childbirth. Must be able to use a semi-automatic defibrillator. Must be able to assist patients with self-administration or administer emergency medications as described in state and local protocol.

The AEMT-Intermediate

Must demonstrate competency in all EMT-B skills and equipment usage. Must be able to provide Advanced Life Support using intravenous therapy, defibrillator and advanced airway adjuncts to control the airway in cases of respiratory and cardiac arrest.

The AEMT-Critical Care

Must demonstrate competency in all EMT-B skills and equipment usage. Must be able to provide Advanced Life Support using the AEMT-Intermediate skills and equipment. Must be able to administer appropriate medications.

The EMT-Paramedic

Must be capable of utilizing all EMT-B and AEMT-intermediate skills and equipment. Must be able to perform under Advanced cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) standards. Must be knowledgeable and competent in the use of a cardiac monitor/defibrillator and intravenous drugs and fluids. The EMT-Paramedic has reached the highest level of pre-hospital care certification.

Description of Tasks:

Responds to calls when dispatched. Reads maps, may drive ambulance to emergency site using most expeditious route permitted by weather and road conditions. Observes all traffic ordinances and regulations.

Uses appropriate body substance isolation procedures. Assesses the safety of the scene, gains access to the patient, assesses extent of injury or illness. Extricates patient from entrapment. Communicates with dispatcher requesting additional assistance or services as necessary. Determines nature of illness or injury. Visually inspects for medical identification emblems to aid in care (medical bracelet, charm, etc.) Uses prescribed techniques and equipment to provide patient care. Provides additional emergency care following established protocols. Assesses and monitors vital signs and general appearance of patient for change. Makes determination regarding patient status and priority for emergency care using established criteria. Reassures patient, family members and bystanders.

Assists with lifting, carrying and properly loading patient into the ambulance. Avoids mishandling patient and undue haste. Determines appropriate medical facility to which patient will be transported. Transports patient to medical facility providing ongoing medical care as necessary enroute. Reports nature of injury or illness to receiving facility. Asks for medical direction from medical control physician and carries

out medical control orders as appropriate. Assists in moving patient from ambulance into medical facility. Reports verbally and in writing observations of the patient's emergency and care provided (including written report(s) and care provided by Certified First Responders prior to EMT-B/AEMT arrival on scene) to emergency department staff and assists staff as required.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities and arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene.

Replaces supplies, properly disposes of medical waste. Properly cleans contaminated equipment according to established guidelines. Checks all equipment for future readiness. Maintains ambulance in operable condition. Ensures cleanliness and organization of ambulance, its equipment and supplies. Determines vehicle readiness by checking operator maintainable fluid, fuel and air pressure levels. Maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.