

IDHS 2020 EMS SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS OF EMS PROVIDER


Adopted by the EMS Commission during the November 2019 meeting.


Effective March 1, 2020.


Last updated February 7, 2025.

KEY/LEGEND

X = NHTSA 2018 EMS Scope of Practice

 Blue = Current Indiana EMS Scope of Practice

 Red = Approved by the EMS Commission at the January 2020 meeting

 Green = Approved by the EMS Commission at the September 2020 meeting



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
Mouth-to-barrier	X	X	X	X
I. Skill – Airway / Ventilation / Oxygenation				
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

Notes

Nasal airways were added at the EMR level. This is already being taught. IDHS to provide education at the EMR level.

CPAP was added at the EMT and AEMT level. IDHS to provide education at these provider levels.

ETCO₂ monitoring and waveform capnography added at the EMT and AEMT levels. IDHS to provide education at these provider levels.

Clarification that this was listed for purposes of high flow respiratory support systems.

Pulse oximetry was added at the EMR level. IDHS to provide education at this provider level.

II. Skill – Cardiovascular / Circulation	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)	X	X	X	X
12 lead ECG acquisition and transmission		X	X	X
12 lead electrocardiogram (interpretive)				X
Cardiac monitoring (3 lead - continuous)				X
II. Skill – Cardiovascular / Circulation				
EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic	
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	X
Telemetric monitoring devices transmission of clinical data including video		X	X	X
Transcutaneous pacing				X
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
Splint – traction		X	X	X
Mechanical patient restraint		X	X	X
III. Skill – Splinting, Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR), and Patient Restraint				
EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic	
Emergency moves for endangered patients	X	X	X	X
IV. Skill – Medication Administration – Routes				
EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic	
Aerosolized/nebulized		X	X	X
Endotracheal tube				X
Inhaled	X	X	X	X
Intradermal				X
Intramuscular		X	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



Mechanical CPR device: Requires medical director approval, protocol and training along with a written agreement between non-transport providers and transport providers when they both respond.

Telemetric monitoring devices: EMTs and AEMTs may transmit data for interpretation while paramedics may interpret the data.

Long spine board was added at the EMR level.

Must be within scope of practice.

Nebulized route of medication administration added at the EMT level for scope of practice approved medications. IDHS to provide education at the EMT level.

IM Route of medication administration was added last year for IM Epinephrine for anaphylaxis. No additional education needed.

EMTs may administer COVID and seasonal influenza vaccinations with medical director approval and oversight, training and written medical protocols.

Nasogastric					X
Oral		X	X		X
Rectal					X
Subcutaneous			X		X
Topical					X
Transdermal					X
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		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
Intranasal - hypoglycemic agent - glucagon		X	X		X
Intravenous			X		X
Maintain an 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
Oral over the counter (OTC) analgesics for pain or fever		X	X		X
OTC medications, oral and topical		X	X		X
Parenteral analgesia for pain					X
Sublingual nitroglycerin for chest pain of suspected ischemic origin – limited to <i>patient's prescribed medic.</i>		X	X		X
Sublingual nitroglycerin for chest pain of suspected ischemic origin			X		X
Thrombolytics					X
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		X
Intravenous – maintenance of medicated IV fluids		X	X		X
VII. Skill – Miscellaneous					
	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic	
Assisted delivery (childbirth)	X	X	X		X
Assisted complicated delivery (childbirth)		X	X		X
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
Venous blood sampling			X		X



EMTs may administer COVID and season influenza vaccinations with medical director approval and oversight, training and written medical protocols.

AEMT currently limited to only Albuterol. This would add anticholinergic to AEMT and beta agonist and anticholinergic to the EMT level. IDHS to provide education at this level of provider.

Current medications for AEMT limited to glucagon, D50 and saline. EMS Commission discussed expanded scope/formulary at the January 2020 commission meeting and approved these three medications: epinephrine (1:10,000 for cardiac arrest), ondansetron and naloxone.

Oral glucose was added at the EMR level. IDHS to provide education at this provider level.

Parenteral analgesia for pain is not approved at the AEMT level for Indiana. The EMS Commission discussed it at the January 2020 commission meeting but did not approve it.

OTC medication administration is already taught, education to be provided locally. Would still require local protocol and medical director approval for the new EMT and AEMT levels.

Currently specified in 836 code for EMT. Some limited and allowed by current Indiana scope of practice at EMT and AEMT level.