SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TITLE: **Emergency Medical Technician Scope of Practice** EMS Policy No. **2360**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to define the scope of practice of San Joaquin County EMS Agency for emergency medical technicians operating within the San Joaquin County EMS System.

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.60, 1797.80, 1797.197, 1797.197a, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 3.22, Sections 100006~~25~~.01, 100006.01~~3, 100064~~

DEFINITIONS: See SJCEMSA Definitions Policy

~~"Accredited EMT" means an EMT that is appropriately trained, meets competency standards, and has been accredited by the SJCEMSA to perform the optional EMT scope of practice skill(s) specified in Title 22, Chapter 2, Section 100064 approved by SJCEMSA, if any.~~
~~"Advanced life support" or "ALS" means those activities in the approved SJCEMSA paramedic scope of practice.~~
~~"Basic life support" or "BLS" means emergency first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures, which, as a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to maintain life without invasive techniques until the patient may be transported or until advanced life support is available.~~
~~"Emergency Medical Technician" or "EMT" means a person who has successfully completed an EMT course that meets the requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, has passed all required tests, and has a valid certificate issued by a California EMT certifying entity.~~
~~"Enhanced Skills EMT" means an EMT that is appropriately trained, meets competency standards, and is functioning as part of the organized San Joaquin County EMS System.~~
~~"Limited advanced life support" or "LALS" means those activities in the approved SJCEMSA Advanced EMT scope of practice.~~
~~"Organized EMS system" means those entities included in the San Joaquin County EMS Agency's EMS Plan as submitted to the Emergency Medical Services Authority pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 1797.254, or as amended.~~
~~"SJCEMSA" means the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency, which is the designated local emergency medical services agency for San Joaquin County.~~

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POLICY:

I. An EMT operating in the San Joaquin County EMS System may perform activities specified in the SJCEMSA EMT basic scope of practice in accordance with the requirements of this policy and SJCEMSA BLS treatment protocols i.e. EMS Policies Nos. 5500-5590.

II. An enhanced skills EMT functioning as part of the organized San Joaquin County EMS System is authorized by SJCEMSA to perform the activities specified in the SJCEMSA EMT enhanced skills scope of practice in accordance with the requirements of this policy and SJCEMSA BLS treatment protocols i.e. EMS Policies Nos. 5500-5590.

III. EMT Basic Scope of Practice: As part of State approved basic scope of practice, during training, while at the scene of an emergency, during transport of the sick or injured, or during inter-facility transfer, a certified EMT or supervised EMT student may perform the following procedures or administer the following medications in accordance with the written policies of the San Joaquin County EMS Agency (SJCEMSA):

A. Evaluate the ill and injured and assess patients.
B. Render basic life support, rescue, and emergency medical care to patients.
C. Obtain diagnostic signs to include:
   1. Temperature.
   2. Blood pressure.
   3. Pulse rate and quality.
   4. Respiration rate and quality.
   5. Lung sounds.
   6. Pulse oximetry.
   7. Level of consciousness.
   8. Pupil status.
   9. Skin signs.
D. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including the use of mechanical adjuncts to basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
E. Administer oxygen.
F. Use the following adjunctive airway and breathing aids:
   1. Oropharyngeal airway.
   2. Nasopharyngeal airway.

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~~2.~~3. I-Gel supraglottic airway insertion. Must be accredited to perform skill by July 1, 2027
~~3.~~4. Suction devices.
~~4.~~5. Basic oxygen delivery devices for supplemental oxygen therapy including, but not limited to, humidifiers, partial rebreathers, and venturi masks.
~~5.~~6. Manual and mechanical ventilating devices designed for prehospital use including continuous positive airway pressure.

G. Use various types of stretchers and spinal motion restriction devices.

H. Provide initial prehospital emergency care to patients, including, but not limited to:
1. Bleeding control through the application of tourniquets.
2. Use of hemostatic dressings.
3. Spinal motion restriction.
4. Seated spinal motion restriction.
5. Extremity splinting.
6. Extremity traction splinting.
7. Administer oral glucose or sugar solutions.
8. Extricate entrapped persons.
9. Perform field triage.
10. Transport patients.
11. Apply mechanical patient restraint.
12. Set up for LALS and ALS procedures under the direction of an accredited SJCEMSA AEMT or accredited SJCEMSA paramedic.
13. Perform automated external defibrillation.
~~14.~~ Assist patients with the administration of the patient's own physician-prescribed devices including, but not limited to, patient-operated medication pumps, sublingual nitroglycerin, and self-administered emergency medications, including epinephrine devices.

~~15.~~14.

~~IV. EMT Enhanced Skills Scope of Practice:~~

~~A. In addition to the activities authorized in the EMT basic scope of practice policy an Enhanced Skills EMT while at the scene of an emergency and during transport of the sick or injured may perform the following procedures or administer the following medications in accordance with the written policies of SJCEMSA:~~

1. Administer naloxone by intranasal route.
2. Administer epinephrine by auto-injector. Note auto-injectors are the only form of epinephrine administration authorized by this section

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pursuant to CCR, Title 22, §100063(b)(4).

~~2.~~3. Administer ondansetron by oral dissolving tablet (ODT)

~~3.~~4. Perform finger stick blood glucose testing.

~~4.~~5. Administer the following over the counter medications:

a. Acetaminophen.
b. Aspirin.
c. Diphenhydramine.
d. Ibuprofen.
~~a. Aspirin.~~

~~B. In addition to the activities authorized in the basic scope of practice and paragraph A above, an Enhanced Skills EMT may during an inter-facility transfer with a permitted ambulance service provider perform the following procedures or administer the following medications in accordance with the written policies of SJCEMSA:~~

~~1.~~6. Monitor, adjust, and discontinue intravenous lines delivering:

a. Glucose solutions.
b. Isotonic balanced salt solutions including Ringer's lactate.

~~2.~~7. Transfer patients by ambulance who are deemed appropriate for BLS by the transferring physician with established:

a. Nasogastric (NG) tubes.
b. Gastrostomy tubes.
c. Heparin lock(s).
d. Saline lock(s).
e. Foley catheter.
f. Tracheostomy tube.
g. Indwelling vascular access lines, excluding arterial lines.

~~C.~~B. SJCEMSA acknowledges that an EMT employed by a statewide public safety agency (i.e. California Highway Patrol and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) may perform EMT enhanced skills as authorized by their certifying local EMS Agency while operating in San Joaquin County.

~~II. EMT Optional Skills Scope of Practice: SJCEMSA has not approved any optional EMT skills, procedures, or medications.~~

~~III.~~II. The scope of practice of an EMT in San Joaquin County shall not exceed the activities authorized by this Policy.

~~IV.~~III. During the continuation of an EMS response that crosses into an adjacent EMS system or during a mutual aid response into another local EMS agency's

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jurisdiction, an on duty EMT may utilize the scope of practice for which the EMT is trained and authorized according to the policies and procedures established by SJCEMSA.

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