

Paramedic Functional Job Analysis / Technical Standards

Paramedic Characteristics

- Confident leader accepting a high degree of responsibility.
- Sound judgement to prioritize decisions and act quickly for the patient.
- Communicate effectively both verbally and orally with all patient groups and ages.
- Able to successfully function in a team dynamic, as a leader or team member, and at times independently, often in a stressful, non-structured environment that is constantly changing.
- Ability to maintain situational awareness regarding scene safety and patient care.
- Current knowledge of medications and the ability to apply this knowledge in a practical sense, including the desired therapeutic effects, safe administration, drug interactions, and inventory control, of medications used in the prehospital setting.
- Ability to document patient care, verbally (at times by recall), and written report.
- Willingness to use proper PPE, cleaning techniques, and disposal of contaminated materials and equipment.
- Willingness to maintain specific certifications, including, but not limited to CPR, ACLS, and PALS.
- Ability to correctly interpret EKGs and perform advanced airway maneuvers.
- Ability to follow both off-line and direct medical control.
- Commitment to continual learning, technical skill maintenance, and retention of patient care principles.
- Desire to serve, in demanding situations all people, always.
- Ability to focus on the task at hand, and not become distracted or overwhelmed by challenging situations.
- Maintain a level of physical fitness allowing the ability to move people and equipment in a variety of circumstances.
- Commitment to mental health.
- Ability to operate emergency vehicles in a safe and timely manner.

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Comments

The Paramedic provides the most extensive pre-hospital care and may work for fire departments, private ambulance services, air operations, wildland, police departments or hospitals. Calls for service vary, from what experienced providers may consider routine, to high stress events requiring great acuity. Both types of calls hold their own hazards. The Paramedic must be flexible to meet the demands of the ever-changing emergency scene. When emergencies exist, the situation can be complex, and care of the patient may need to start immediately. The paramedic in the EMS system uses advanced training and equipment to extend emergency physician services to the ambulance. The Paramedic must be able to make accurate independent judgements while following either off-line or on-line directives. The ability to perform duties in a timely manner is essential, as it could mean the difference between life and death for the patient.

The Paramedic must be proficient in the use of technology for communication, documentation, and patient care. The ability to respond quickly, safely, and accurately to the patient is the first step in delivering service. Concisely and accurately describing orally to dispatch and other healthcare providers, one's impression of patient's condition is critical. The Paramedic must also be able to accurately report, orally and in writing, all relevant patient data, while protecting patient information. At times, reporting may require a detailed narrative on extenuating circumstances or conditions. Critical thinking skills, such that you can decide and draw reasonable conclusions, promoting the implementation of a patient care plan in line with established protocols.

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References

1. US Department of Transportation. (1998). *Home* | *ems.gov*. EMS.gov.
https://www.ems.gov/assets/Paramedic_1998.pdf