Roles and Responsibilities of the Paramedic

Topics
- Responsibilities of the Paramedic
- Personal and Professional Development
- Professional Ethics
- Professional Attitudes
- Continuing Education

Primary Responsibilities of the Paramedic
- Preparation
- Response
- Scene size-up
- Patient assessment
- Treatment and management
- Disposition and transfer
- Documentation
- Clean-up, maintenance, and review
Preparation

The paramedic must be physically, mentally, and emotionally able to meet job demands.

Response

Safety is the number one priority!
- Wear seatbelts.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Monitor roadway for potential hazards.

Scene Size-up

- Scene safety.
- Identify the number of patients.
- Identify the mechanism or nature of illness.
Patient Assessment

- Initial assessment.
- Physical examination.
- Patient history.
- Ongoing assessment.

Recognition of Illness or Injury

- First aspect of patient prioritization.
- Usually based on the urgency for transport.

Patient Management

- Protocols ensure consistent patient care.
- Communication with medical direction.
- Movement of the patient from one location to another.
### Appropriate Disposition

- Transportation type.
- Receiving facility.
- Treat and release.

### Patient Transfer

- While moving the patient from one facility to another the first priority is patient care.
- Request a verbal report from primary-care provider.
- At destination provide a report to receiving care provider.

### Documentation

- Complete a patient care report as soon as possible after emergency care has been provided.
- Necessary to ensure continuity of care.
- Be complete, neat, and legible.
Accurate and complete documentation is extremely important.

Returning to Service

- Prepare the unit to return to service
- Clean and decontaminate.
- Restock.
- Refuel.
- Review the call with crew members.
- Be aware of signs of critical incident stress.

Additional Responsibilities

- Community involvement.
- Support for primary care.
- Citizen involvement in EMS.
- Personal and professional development.
Community Involvement

Help the public:
- Recognize an emergency;
- Know how to provide BLS;
- Know how to properly access the EMS system.

Support For Primary Care

- Help develop services that decrease the need for EMS.
- Establish protocols that specify the mode of transportation for non-emergency patients.
- Team up with hospitals to provide an alternative to the emergency department.

Citizen Involvement in EMS

- Gives outsiders an “insiders” view
- The community is the “customer”; involve them as much as possible
Personal and Professional Development

- Personal and professional development is your responsibility.
- Keep updated with journals, seminars, computer newsgroups, and other learning experiences.
- Explore alternative or non-traditional career paths.

Professionalism

Professionalism is the conduct or qualities that characterize an expert practitioner in a particular field or occupation.

Professional Ethics

Ethics are rules or standards that govern the conduct of members of a particular group or profession.

Oath of Generosity

I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity. I will put to use the resources and privileges which are mine. I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity, the health of my patients will be my first consideration. I will respect the secrets which are entrusted to me, I will maintain by all means in my power the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession. My colleagues will be my brothers. I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality or party, politics, or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient. I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the standpoint of the honor of humanity. I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor.
EMT Code of Ethics

Professional Attitudes

True professionals establish excellence as their goal and never allow themselves to become complacent about their performance.

Professional Attributes

- Leadership
- Integrity
- Empathy
- Self-motivation
- Professional appearance and hygiene
- Communication skills
- Time management skills
- Diplomacy in teamwork
- Respect
- Patient advocacy
- Careful delivery of service
As the leader of the EMS team, the paramedic must interact with patients, bystanders, and other rescue personnel in a professional manner.

Continuing Education

The paramedic must always strive to stay abreast of changes in EMS.

Summary

- Responsibilities of the paramedic.
- Personal and professional development.
- Professional ethics.
- Professional attitudes.
- Continuing education.