



Essential Functions for the Paramedicine Program

Paramedic Job Description and Characteristics

A paramedic functions as the most extensively trained primary care provider in the pre-hospital setting. The paramedic is responsible for all aspects of care provided to the sick and injured. The paramedic provides both basic and advanced life support, including comprehensive patient assessment, invasive airway management, cardiac monitoring and administration of medications. The paramedic is frequently in a leadership role working with a small team of lesser-trained prehospital care providers. The paramedic is responsible for verbal communication with the patient, other prehospital providers and hospital personnel, including physician medical directors. The paramedic completes extensive written documentation on patient condition and treatment provided, and must understand all applicable legal, moral and ethical issues surrounding emergency medical service. The paramedic must be dedicated to continued learning through continuing education and maintenance of licensures and certifications.

The paramedic must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high degree of responsibility entailed in this position. The paramedic must have excellent judgment, be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the best interest of the patient. The paramedic must be able to function independently at an optimum level in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing. The paramedic must be able to remain calm while working in difficult and stressful situations, and stay focused while assuming the leadership role inherent in carrying out the functions of the position. Good judgment is essential in directing other team members to assist as needed, along with advanced knowledge, technical skills. The paramedic must possess excellent verbal communication skills and be capable of adapting to situations with violence and emotional instability in multicultural settings. The paramedic must possess critical reasoning and math skills and be capable of applying them effectively in stressful situations. Self-motivation is essential.

Essential Duties

- Report for duty on time and when assigned
- Maintain good physical condition and personal hygiene
- Ability to assess emergency scenes
- Lift patients with assistance
- Operate EMS vehicles under normal and emergency conditions
- Operate standard equipment; such as stretchers, cots, patient care monitors, and standard diagnostic equipment
- Extricate persons from vehicles, bend and lift, and perform CPR for extended periods of time.
- Be able to handle extreme stress in crisis situations
- Be able to stand for extended periods of time.
- Work 8, 10, 12, or 24 hour shifts, and overtime when required.

Environmental Factors

- May work in inclement weather, including extreme heat and cold.
- Be available to report for duty in dangerous and severe weather such as ice storms, wind storms and flooding event.
- Be able to work with and under the direction of other agencies during regional emergency response incidences.
- Evening and weekend and holiday hours are required as needed

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