



## Roles and Responsibilities of the Paramedic

BLEDSOE • PORTER • CHERRY

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### Topics

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

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### Primary Responsibilities of the Paramedic

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ❑ Preparation              | ❑ Disposition and transfer          |
| ❑ Response                 | ❑ Documentation                     |
| ❑ Scene size-up            | ❑ Clean-up, maintenance, and review |
| ❑ Patient assessment       |                                     |
| ❑ Treatment and management |                                     |

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# Preparation

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



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# Response

Safety is the number one priority!

- Wear seatbelts.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Monitor roadway for potential hazards.

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# Scene Size-up

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



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## Patient Assessment

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



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## Recognition of Illness or Injury

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

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## Patient Management

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

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## Appropriate Disposition

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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**Accurate and complete documentation is extremely important.**



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## **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.**

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## **Additional Responsibilities**

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

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## Community Involvement

Help the public:

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

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## 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.

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## Citizen Involvement in EMS

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

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## 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.

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## Professionalism

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

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## Professional Ethics

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

### Oath of Geneva

*I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity; I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due; I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity; the health of my patient will be my first consideration; I will respect the secrets which are confided in me; I will maintain by all the 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, race, party, politics, or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient; I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception; even under threat, I will not make use of my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity. I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor.*

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# EMT Code of Ethics

**EMT Code of Ethics**

Professional status as an Emergency Medical Technician is earned and derived by the willingness of the individual practitioner to accept and fulfill obligations to society, other medical professionals, and the profession of Emergency Medical Technicians. An Emergency Medical Technician, at the basic level or an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic, is voluntarily pledged to the following code of professional ethics:

A fundamental responsibility to the Emergency Medical Technician is to continue life, to alleviate suffering, to promote health, or to do no harm, and to encourage the quality and equal availability of emergency medical care.

The Emergency Medical Technician provides services based on human need, with respect for human dignity, unswayed by considerations of nationality, race, creed, color, or religion.

The Emergency Medical Technician does not use professional knowledge and skills in any enterprise detrimental to the public, well being.

The Emergency Medical Technician respects and works in confidence in admissions of a confidential nature obtained in the course of professional work unless required by law to divulge such information.

The Emergency Medical Technician, in a citizen's undertaking and upholds the law and performs the duties of citizenship as a professional, the Emergency Medical Technician has the same standing responsibility to work with concerned citizens and other health care professionals in promoting a high standard of emergency medical care to all people.

The Emergency Medical Technician shall maintain professional competence and demonstrate concern for the competence of other members of the Emergency Medical Technician health care team.

An Emergency Medical Technician assumes responsibility for obtaining and maintaining standards of professional practice and education.

The Emergency Medical Technician assumes responsibility for individual professional actions and judgments, both in operational and independent emergency functions, and knows and upholds the laws which affect the practice of the Emergency Medical Technician.

The Emergency Medical Technician has the responsibility to be aware of and participate in matters of legislation affecting the Emergency Medical Technician and the Emergency Medical Services System.

The Emergency Medical Technician adheres to standards of personal ethics which reflect credit upon the profession.

Emergency Medical Technicians, or groups of Emergency Medical Technicians, who advance governmental agencies, do so in conformity with the dignity of the profession.

The Emergency Medical Technician has an obligation to protect the public by not engaging in a practice that involves any activity which impairs the professional competence of an Emergency Medical Technician.

The Emergency Medical Technician will work harmoniously with and assist confidence in Emergency Medical Technicians receiving the care, the physician, and other members of the Emergency Medical Services health care team.

The Emergency Medical Technician refuses to participate in unethical procedures, and assumes the responsibility to report occurrences of unethical conduct of others to the appropriate authority in a proper and professional manner.

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

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# Professional Attitudes

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

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# 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

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As the leader of the EMS team, the paramedic must interact with patients, bystanders, and other rescue personnel in a professional manner.



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## Continuing Education

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

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## Summary

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

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