WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
*of* HEALTH SERVICES

# 2025 Wisconsin EMS Scope of Practice

## Background

Wisconsin Admin. Code § DHS 110.12 states that an emergency medical services (EMS) practitioner or emergency medical responder may only perform the skills, use the equipment, and administer the medications that are specified by the Department of Health Services (DHS) in the Wisconsin scope of practice for the level to which the individual is licensed, certified, or credentialed.

The Wisconsin scope of practice for each certification and practitioner level may be found on the DHS EMS website. The Wisconsin scope of practice for each certification and license level is reviewed annually in consultation with the Wisconsin EMS Advisory Board and the Physician Advisory Committee and published and posted on the DHS website by March 31 of each year.

Below is a quick reference table of emergency medical responder and practitioner-level terms, followed by definitions and additional information to supplement the scopes of practice that follow.

| Key to Emergency Medical Responder and Practitioner Levels | |
|---|---|
| **EMR** | Emergency Medical Responder |
| **EMT** | Emergency Medical Technician |
| **AEMT** | Advanced Emergency Medical Technician |
| **INT** | EMT-Intermediate |
| **PARA** | Paramedic |
| **CCP** | Paramedic with Critical Care Endorsement for Inter-Facility Transport (IFT) Only |

## Required (R) Skills, Equipment, and Medications

All skills, equipment, and medications designated with an "R" at a certification or license level are required for that level; these core skills ensure equal access to EMS care across the state. All "R" skills must be submitted as part of the EMS Service Operational Plan and approved by DHS.

## Optional (O) Skills, Equipment, and Medications

All skills, equipment, and medications designated with an "O" at a certification and license level are optional advanced skills for that level based on the needs and resources of a community. These optional skills must be submitted as part of the EMS Service Operational Plan and reported to DHS through the designated electronic reporting tool for approval.

## Emergency Medical Responder Certification Level

For the EMR certification level, any DHS-approved "O" skill is considered an Advanced Skill and must be reported in a patient care report and submitted to the Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System (WARDS) as outlined in Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.34 (8). All other EMS practice levels are required to report both "R" and "O" approved skills in a patient care report submitted to WARDS.

## Certification and License-level modifications

Items designated with a footnote are modified for the indicated practice level by the conditions contained within the footnote at the end of that section and have specified requirements.

# PART A: Scope Of Practice for 911 EMS Practitioners and Emergency Medical Responders

## I. Skill—Airway, Ventilation, Oxygenation

| I. Skill—Airway, Ventilation, Oxygenation | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Airway—Nasopharyngeal | R | R | R | R | R |
| Airway—Non-visualized (an extraglottic device inserted without the need to visualize the vocal cords). If a non-visualized airway is inserted, the use of end-tidal CO2 detection (capnometry or capnography) to confirm safe device position and effective ventilation is mandatory. | O | R | R | R | R |
| Airway—Oropharyngeal | R | R | R | R | R |
| Airway Obstruction—Manual Dislodgement Techniques | R | R | R | R | R |
| Airway Obstruction—Dislodgement by Direct Laryngoscopy | | R | R | R | R |
| Bag-Valve Mask (BVM) | R | R | R | R | R |
| Chest Decompression—Needle | | | | R | R |
| Chest Seal—Vented Preferred | O | R | R | R | R |
| CO Monitoring | O | O | O | O | O |
| Cricothyrotomy—Surgical or Needle | | | | | R |
| End Tidal CO2 continuous monitoring device for ongoing ventilation status and metabolic clinical decision-making | O | O | O | R | R |
| End Tidal CO2 detection device required to confirm safe device position and effective ventilation if any non-visualized airway device, endotracheal tube, cricothyrotomy device or tracheostomy tube is used by an EMS provider | R | R | R | R | R |
| Gastric Decompression with Advanced Airway | O | O | O | O | R |
| Intubation | | | | O | R |
| Intubation—Rapid Sequence Induction | | | | | O |
| Manual Airway Maneuvers | R | R | R | R | R |
| Non-Invasive Positive Pressure Ventilation | | O | R | R | R |
| Oxygen Therapy—Nebulizer | O | R | R | R | R |
| Oxygen Therapy—Nasal Cannula | O | R | R | R | R |
| Oxygen Therapy—Non-Rebreather Mask | O | R | R | R | R |

| I. Skill—Airway, Ventilation, Oxygenation (cont'd) | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oxygen Therapy—Tracheostomy Tube | O | R | R | R | R |
| Oxygen Therapy—High Flow Nasal Cannula | | | | | O |
| Pulse Oximetry | O | R | R | R | R |
| Suctioning—Tracheobronchial Suctioning | O | R | R | R | R |
| Suctioning—Upper Airway (Soft and Rigid) | R | R | R | R | R |
| Ventilator—Automated Transport Ventilator | | O[1] | O[1] | O[1] | O |
| Ventilator—Variable Setting | | | | | O |

Note: [1]May only be used during for CPR during cardiopulmonary arrest.

## II. Skill—Cardiovascular, Circulation

| II. Skill—Cardiovascular, Circulation | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cardiocerebral Resuscitation (CCR) | O | O | O | O | O |
| Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) | R | R | R | R | R |
| Cardioversion—Electrical | | | | R | R |
| CPR Mechanical Device | O | O | O | O | O |
| Defibrillation—Automated and Semi-Automated (AED) | R | R | R | R | R |
| Defibrillation—Manual | | | | R | R |
| ECG Monitor—Acquisition and Transmission | O | O | O | R | R |
| ECG Monitor—Interpretation | | | | R | R |
| ECG 12, 15 or 18 Lead—Acquisition and Transmission | O | O | O | R | R |
| ECG 12, 15 or 18 Lead - Interpretation | | | | R | R |
| Hemorrhage Control—Direct Pressure | R | R | R | R | R |
| Hemorrhage Control—Hemostatic Agents | O | O | O | O | O |
| Hemorrhage Control—Junctional Tourniquet | O | O | O | O | O |
| Hemorrhage Control—Pressure Points | R | R | R | R | R |
| Hemorrhage Control—Skin Clamp (Temporary Use) | O | O | O | O | O |
| Hemorrhage Control—Tourniquet | R | R | R | R | R |
| Hemorrhage Control—Wound Packing | O | R | R | R | R |
| Impedance Threshold Device (ITD) | | O | O | O | O |
| Pericardiocentesis | | | | | O |
| Transcutaneous Pacing | | | | R | R |
| Point of Care Cardiac Ultrasound—Cardiac Arrest | | | | | O |
| Valsalva Maneuver | | | | R | R |

## III. Skill—Splinting and Spinal Motion Immobilization

| III. Skill—Splinting and Spinal Motion Immobilization | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cervical Collar | R | R | R | R | R |
| Manual Cervical Stabilization | R | R | R | R | R |
| Seated Spinal Motion Restriction | O | R | R | R | R |
| Splinting—Manual | R | R | R | R | R |
| Splinting—Pelvic Compression Device | O | O | O | O | R |
| Splinting—Rigid | R | R | R | R | R |
| Splinting—Soft | R | R | R | R | R |

| III. Skill—Splinting and Spinal Motion Immobilization (cont'd) | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Splinting—Traction | O | R | R | R | R |
| Splinting—Vacuum | O | O | O | O | O |

# IV. Skill—Medication Administration Routes

| IV. Skill—Medication Administration Routes | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aerosolized, Nebulized | O | R | R | R | R |
| Endotracheal Tube (ET) | | | | R | R |
| Intradermal (ID) | O | O | O | O | O |
| Intramuscular (IM) | O[2] | R | R | R | R |
| Intramuscular—Auto-Injector | R | R | R | R | R |
| Intranasal (IN) | O[3] | R | R | R | R |
| Intranasal—Auto-Injector | R[3] | R | R | R | R |
| Intraosseous (IO) | | | R | R | R |
| Intravenous (IV) | | | R | R | R |
| Mucosal, Sublingual (SL) | | R | R | R | R |
| Oral (PO) | O | R | R | R | R |
| Rectal | | | | R | R |
| Subcutaneous (SQ) | | O | O | O | O |

Note: [2]May only be used for manually drawn epinephrine 1:1000 for anaphylaxis or vaccine administration. [3]May only be used for naloxone or epinephrine.

# V. Skill—Initiation, Maintenance, Fluids

| V. Skill—Initiation, Maintenance, Fluids | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central Line or PICC Line—Access and Maintenance (No additional training required in code situation) | | | | | O |
| Intraosseous | | | R | R | R |
| IV –External Jugular | | | | O | O |
| IV –Peripheral | | | R | R | R |
| IV Pump—Non-medicated IV Fluids | | | O | O | O |
| IV Pump—Two or Less Medicated IVs | | | | | O |
| Maintenance—Medicated IV Fluids | | | | | R |
| Maintenance—Non-medicated IV Fluids | | | R | R | R |
| Other Access Ports—Access and Maintenance | | | | | O |
| Saline Lock—Initiation and Access | | | R | R | R |
| Saline Lock—Monitor | | O | R | R | R |

# VI. Skill—Miscellaneous

| VI. Skill—Miscellaneous | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Assisted Delivery (Childbirth) | R | R | R | R | R |
| Blood Chemistry Analysis | | | | | O |
| Blood Glucose Monitoring | O | R | R | R | R |
| Blood Pressure—Automated | O | O | O | O | O |

| VI. Skill—Miscellaneous (cont'd) | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eye Irrigation | R | R | R | R | R |
| Immunizations | O | O | O | O | O |
| Long Board | O | R | R | R | R |
| Nasopharyngeal and/or Oropharyngeal Sampling/Obtaining | O | O | O | O | O |
| Patient Physical Restraints | O | R | R | R | R |
| Telemetric monitoring devices and transmission of clinical data including video data | O | O | O | O | O |
| Venous Blood Sampling—Obtaining | | | O | O | O |
| Vital Signs | R | R | R | R | R |

# VII. Skill—Assisted Patient Medications

| VII. Skill—Assisted Patient Medications | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Any patient prescribed medication that is approved within the Wisconsin EMS Scope of Practice and in agency protocol. | O | O | O | O | O |
| Any patient prescribed medication with online medical control approval (only if administration route is within scope of practice) | O | O | O | O | O |

# VIII. Skill—Medications Approved Per Protocol

| VIII. Skill—Medications Approved per Protocol | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0.45% Sodium Chloride | | | O | O | O |
| 0.9% Sodium Chloride (Normal Saline) | | | R | R | R |
| Activated Charcoal | | O | O | O | O |
| Acetaminophen (Tylenol) | | O | R | R | R |
| Adenosine (Adenocard) | | | | R | R |
| Albuterol | O | R | R | R | R |
| ANTIARRHYTMIC CATEGORY | | | | R[4] | R |
|     Amiodarone (Cordarone) | | | | O | R |
|     Lidocaine (Xylocaine) | | | | O | R |
|     Procainamide | | | | | O |
| ANTIEMETIC CATEGORY | O | O | O | R[7] | R[7] |
|     Droperidol | | | | | O |
|     Isopropyl Alcohol | O | O | O | O | O |
|     Metoclopramide (Reglan) | | | | | O |
|     Ondansetron (Zofran) | | | | O | O |
|     Prochlorperazine (Compazine) | | | | | O |
|     Promethazine (Phenergan) | | | | | O |
| Any patient prescribed medication that is approved within the Wisconsin EMS Scope of Practice and in agency protocol. | O | O | O | O | O |
| Any patient prescribed medication with online medical control approval (only if administration route is with- in scope of practice) | O | O | O | O | O |

| VIII. Skill—Medications Approved per Protocol (cont'd) | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aspirin | O | R | R | R | R |
| Atropine | | | | R | R |
| Auto-injector antidotes for chemical and hazardous material exposures | O | O | O | O | O |
| BENZODIAZEPINE CATEGORY | | | | R[5] | R[6] |
| Diazepam (Valium) | | | | O | O |
| Lorazepam (Ativan) | | | | O | O |
| Midazolam (Versed) | | | | O | O |
| Blood and Blood Product-Initiation | | | | | O |
| Buprenorphine | | | | | O |
| Calcium | | | | | R |
| Cephalosporin antibiotic for open fracture | | | | | O |
| Cimetidine | | | | | O |
| Clopidogrel (Plavix) | | | | | O |
| Cyanide Antidote Kits | | | | | O |
| Dexamethasone (Decadron) | | | | | O |
| Dextrose | | | R | R | R |
| Diltiazem (Cardizem) | | | | | O |
| Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) | | | | | O |
| Epinephrine (1:1000)-manual injection or autoinjector | O | R | R | R | R |
| Etomidate (Amidate) | | | | | O |
| Famotidine (Pepcid) | | | | | O |
| Flumazenil (Romazicon) | | | | | O |
| Glucagon | | O | O | O | O |
| Glucose | O | R | R | R | R |
| Haloperidol (Haldol) | | | | | O |
| Heparin | | | | | O |
| Hydralazine | | | | | O |
| Hydrocortisone | | | | | O |
| Hydroxyzine (Vistaril) | | | | | O |
| Ibuprofen (Advil) | | O | O | O | O |
| Ipratropium (Atrovent) | | O | O | O | O |
| Ketamine (Ketalar) | | | | | O |
| Ketorolac (Toradol) | | | O | O | O |
| Labetalol | | | | | O |
| Lactated Ringer's | | | O | O | O |
| Levetiracetam | | | | | O |
| Lidocaine (Xylocaine) | | | | O | R |
| Magnesium | | | | | R |
| Methylprednisolone (Solu-Medrol) | | | | | O |
| Metoprolol (Lopressor) | | | | | O |
| Naloxone (Narcan) manual or autoinjector | O | R | R | R | R |
| Naproxen | | O | O | O | O |
| Nicardipine | | | | | O |

| VIII. Skill—Medications Approved per Protocol (cont'd) | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nifedipine | | | | | O |
| Nitroglycerin (sublingual tablet or spray) | | | R | R | R |
| Nitroglycerin (drip or paste) | | | | | O |
| Nitrous oxide | | | O | O | O |
| Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory | | R[11] | R[11] | R[11] | R[11] |
|     Ibuprofen (Advil) | | O | O | O | O |
|     Ketorolac (Toradol) | | | O | O | O |
|     Naproxen | | O | O | O | O |
| Olanzapine | | | | | O |
| OPIOID CATEGORY | | | | R[9] | R[10] |
|     Fentanyl (Sublimaze) | | | | O | O |
|     Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) | | | | | O |
|     Morphine | | | | O | O |
| Other Short Acting Beta Agonists (e.g., epinephrine, racemic epinephrine) inhaled and/or nebulized for respiratory distress | | O | O | O | O |
| Oxygen | O | R | R | R | R |
| Oxymetazoline (Afrin) | | O | O | O | O |
| Oxytocin (Pitocin) | | | | | O |
| Pancuronium (Pavulon) | | | | | O |
| Pralidoxime (2-PAM) | | | | | O |
| Proparacaine | | | | | O |
| Rocuronium (Zemuron) | | | | | O |
| Sodium Bicarbonate | | | | | R |
| Succinylcholine (Anectine) | | | | | O |
| Terbutaline | | | | | O |
| Tetracaine | | | | | O |
| Ticagrelor (Brilinta) | | | | | O |
| Tranexamic Acid (TXA) | | | | | O |
| VASOPRESSOR CATEGORY | | | | R | R[8] |
|     Epinephrine (1:10,000) | | | | R | R |
|     Norepinephrine (Levophed) | | | | | O |
|     Phenylephrine | | | | | O |
| Vasopressin (Pitressin) | | | | O | O |
| Vecuronium (Norcuron) | | | | | O |
| Verapamil | | | | | O |
| Ziprasidone (Geodon) | | | | | O |

Notes: [4]Must choose one antiarrhythmic and may only administer via bolus; [5]Must choose only one benzodiazepine for seizures (midazolam preferred); [6]Must have at least one benzodiazepine (midazolam preferred); [7]Must have at least one antiemetic; [8]Must have at least one vasopressor (norepinephrine preferred); [9]Must choose only one narcotic for pain control (fentanyl preferred); [10]Must have at least one narcotic (fentanyl preferred); [11]Must have at least one nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory listed.

# PART B: Additional Scope of Practice Items For Ambulance Service Providers Licensed To Provide Interfacility Transport

| Inter-Facility Transport Use Only | EMR | EMT | AEMT | INT | PARA | CCP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Skill—Airway, Ventilation, Oxygenation** | | | | | | |
| Ventilator—Automated Transport Ventilator | | O[1] | O[1] | O[1] | O | O |
| Ventilator—Variable Setting | | | | | O | R |
| **Skill—Cardiovascular, Circulation** | | | | | | |
| Monitor—Arterial Line | | | | | | R |
| Monitor—CVP Line | | | | | | R |
| Transvenous Pacing—Maintenance and Trouble- shooting (Not Initiation) | | | | | O | R |
| Monitor—Swan-Ganz Catheter | | | | | | R |
| **Skill—Initiation, Maintenance, Fluids** | | | | | | |
| IV Pump—Non-medicated IV Fluids | | | O | O | O | R |
| IV Pump—Two or Less Medicated IVs | | | | | O | R |
| IV Pump—More than Two Medicated IVs | | | | | | R |
| Central Line, PICC Line—Access and Maintenance (No additional training required in code situation) | | | | | O | R |
| Other Access Ports-Access and Maintenance | | | | | O | R |
| **Skill—Medications** | | | | | | |
| Additional Medications-Maintenance of any ordered medications by the transferring physician with Service EMS Medical Director Authorization by protocol, agency formulary or online medical control. | | | | | O | O |
| Additional Medications authorized by Service EMS Medical Director by protocol, agency formulary or online medical control. | | | | | O | O |
| Blood and Blood Product- Maintenance | | | | | O | R |
| Blood and Blood Product- Initiation | | | | | O | O |
| **Skill - Miscellaneous** | | | | | | |
| Chest Tube - Insertion | | | | | | O |
| Chest Tube - Monitoring | | | | | R | R |
| Foley Catheter Insertion | | | | | | O |
| Foley Catheter Monitoring | | R | R | R | R | R |
| Nasogastric, Gastrostomy or Jejunostomy Tube Monitoring | | R | R | R | R | R |
| ICP Monitoring | | | | | | R |

Note: [1]May only be used during for CPR during cardiopulmonary arrest.