

Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy			
Unified Paramedic Optional Scope Of Practice For Qualified Transport Programs			
	Effective: 10/1/2025	Next Review: 04/2028	806
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: John Poland – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

PURPOSE:

To specify the unified paramedic optional scope of practice for qualified transport programs, and establish provider requirements and personnel qualifications for utilization.

AUTHORITY:

- A. HSC, Div. 2.5, § 1797.67, 1797.88, 1798.102, 1798.150, 1798.170 & 1798.172.
- B. CCR, Title 22, Div. 9.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Air Ambulance Provider** – A prehospital service provider agency that utilizes specially constructed, modified or equipped aircraft for the primary purpose of responding to emergency incidents and transporting critically ill and/or injured patients. An air ambulance provider utilizes a medical flight crew consisting of a minimum of two attendants certified or licensed in advanced life support.
- B. **CAMTS** – Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems.
- C. **CAMTS Emergency Critical Care (ECC) Accreditation** – A level of accreditation issued by CAMTS verifying that the medical transport provider has met all Emergency Critical Care (ECC) level accreditation standards. CAMTS recognizes FP-C for ECC accreditation, but also requires the FP-C to be paired with a qualified transport nurse partner.
- D. **FP-C** – A ‘Certified Flight Paramedic’ educated and trained in critical care transport and flight medicine, who holds a current certification as an FP-C by the International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC).
- E. **FP-C in training** – A paramedic who has completed the qualified transport program’s initial training but has not completed their FP-C testing/certificate. The FP-C in training must pass the FP-C exam by the end of their second year with the qualified transport program.

- F. **Qualified Flight Paramedic** – A California licensed, S-SV EMS accredited and FP-C certified/FP-C in training paramedic who meets the requirements for utilization of the unified paramedic optional scope of practice. These individuals have at least three (3) years of critical care experience and have completed the qualified transport program's initial academy training with additional education in flight and altitude physiology. They work for a qualified transport program and are paired with a qualified transport nurse.
- G. **Qualified Transport Program** – An S-SV EMS permitted air ambulance provider that has met the requirements to participate in the unified paramedic optional scope of practice program by obtaining/maintaining CAMTS ECC accreditation, and meeting the training, education, competencies, QI and medical direction requirements.
- H. **Qualified Transport Nurse** – A registered nurse with at least three (3) years of critical care experience, who has completed the qualified transport program's initial academy training and is working on obtaining the CEN, CCRN, CFRN or CTRN certification required by the CAMTS ECC accreditation. A qualified transport nurse is employed by and practicing with the qualified transport program.
- I. **Qualified Transport Program Medical Director** – A physician board certified/eligible in emergency medicine, who meets the CAMTS ECC accreditation medical director requirements.
- J. **Qualified Transport Program Physician** – A physician affiliated with the qualified transport program, who is not the qualified transport program medical director, who is board certified/eligible in emergency medicine or in the specialty appropriate for the scope of services being provided (neonate, pediatrics, critical care, etc.).

POLICY:

- A. The unified paramedic optional scope of practice procedures include:
1. Pediatric intubation.
 2. Rapid sequence intubation/induction (RSI) medication administration, including sedatives, paralytics, analgesics, and induction agents.
 3. Ventilator initiation, maintenance and management.
- B. Prehospital service provider agencies shall meet the following requirements to be approved by S-SV EMS as a qualified transport program:
1. Have a current S-SV EMS air ambulance provider permit.
 2. Obtain/maintain CAMTS ECC accreditation.

3. Have a qualified transport program medical director.
 4. Utilize all unified paramedic optional scope of practice procedures.
 5. Provide all required optional scope of practice training, education and competency testing, which has been reviewed/approved by S-SV EMS.
 6. Allow only qualified flight paramedics to utilize the unified paramedic optional scope of practice.
 7. Have a unified paramedic optional scope of practice QI program, which has been reviewed/approved by S-SV EMS.
 8. Collect/submit unified paramedic optional scope of practice data to S-SV EMS. Data submission elements/frequency shall be established, and modified as necessary, by S-SV EMS pursuant to EMS Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC) and California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) requirements.
- C. Paramedic personnel shall meet the following requirements to be approved by S-SV EMS to utilize the unified paramedic optional scope of practice:
1. Have a current California paramedic license.
 2. Have a current S-SV EMS paramedic accreditation.
 3. Completed a minimum of 200 hours of training conducted by the qualified transport program, and meet the FP-C certified/FP-C in training requirements.
 4. Follow the qualified transport program provider's policies/protocols for utilization of unified paramedic optional scope of practice procedures.
 5. Remain competent/proficient in the unified paramedic optional scope of practice by passing required competency testing as follows:
 - Pediatric Intubation: Quarterly (every 3 months)
 - RSI: Quarterly (every 3 months)
 - Ventilator Use: Annually
 6. Be employed by a qualified transport program provider and functioning under the oversight of this provider during any transports where the unified paramedic optional scope of practice is utilized.

7. Be partnered with a qualified transport nurse, qualified transport program medical director or qualified transport program physician during any transports where the unified optional scope of practice is utilized.

D. Unified paramedic optional scope of practice medical control:

1. Medical control for the utilization of the unified paramedic optional scope of practice shall remain the primary responsibility of S-SV EMS, according to established S-SV EMS policies/protocols, and is delivered in conjunction with the qualified transport program provider's policies/protocols specific to the utilization of the unified paramedic optional scope of practice procedures.
2. During an interfacility transport, online medical control may be obtained from the sending physician, receiving physician, Qualified Transport Program Medical Director, or Qualified Transport Program Physician as necessary.