



SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR EMS PERSONNEL (PLS)
GEORGIA OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA
POLICY: SOP (PLS)-2020-1 (effective 4/23/2020)

Approval table with signature of David Newton, Director, Office of EMS and Trauma, dated 04/23/2020.

Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics

The following skills are those that are above and beyond the normal scope of practice for a Georgia licensed Paramedic as listed on the current Scope of Practice for EMS Personnel.

Paramedics are permitted to perform only those additional post-licensure skills listed below at EMS agencies that have been approved to utilize those post-licensure skills for paramedics, and only once the paramedic has been: trained on those skills; certified as competent; credentialed to perform those skills by the agency's EMS Medical Director; and only while operating under standing, verbal or written orders from the agency's EMS Medical Director, transferring physician, or medical control physician.

EMS Agency Initial and Annual Requirements

Prior to initial approval and on an annual basis thereafter, EMS agencies must submit an application to the Department using the current License Management System, and must include:

- Protocols and any standing orders for the use of each post-licensure skill;
• Training curriculum for each post-licensure skill (training must be done at least annually, and in some cases more frequently); and
• Documentation of the level of local EMS Medical Director involvement and support.

EMS Agency Reporting Requirements

After initial approval, the EMS agency must utilize the Department's current License Management System to:

- Submit a roster of all Paramedics who have been trained, certified as competent, and credentialed by the local EMS Medical Director for each post-licensure skill (must be done prior to the paramedic being permitted to perform those skills).
• Notify and obtain approval from the Department regarding any changes to:
o Protocols, standing orders, or training curriculum - this must be submitted prior to the use of the protocol, standing order or training; and
o Involvement or support of the local EMS Medical Director, including the replacement of the local EMS Medical Director - this notification must be within 24 hours of the change.
• Notify the Department by email to the Regional EMS Director of any adverse events that occur as a result of the use of these post-licensure skills, no more than thirty (30) days after the adverse event has occurred.



Implementation Timeline for Post-Licensure Skills

This version of the Georgia Scope of Practice for EMS Personnel (PLS) becomes effective on April 23, 2020. Given the nature of the changes from the 2015 scope of practice to the 2020 scope of practice, as they relate to the use of advanced transport ventilators and other skills that are listed under the Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics section, there will be a twelve (12) month grace period for the full implementation of the 2020 Georgia Scope of Practice. EMS agencies that are already (as of 12/31/2019) allowing paramedics to use advanced transport ventilators or perform other skills that are listed under the Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics section, may continue to allow those skills up until December 31, 2020. **Beginning January 1, 2021, any agency that desires to allow paramedics to use advanced transport ventilators or use any of the skills now listed under the Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics section, must meet all the requirements under that section.**

Post-Licensure Skill for Paramedics

1. Initiation and maintenance of **Advanced Transport Ventilators (ATV)** that are capable of more advanced modes (i.e., capable of adjusting more than rate and tidal volume).
2. **Initiation of additional units of blood/blood products**, includes initiating an additional blood/blood product infusion if supplied by the sending facility after all proper safety checks are completed by the sending facility and the ambulance has addressed appropriate storage and temperature maintenance during transport.
3. **Maintenance of Intra-Aortic Balloon Pumps (IABPs)**
4. **Maintenance of Transvenous Cardiac Pacing (TVP) devices**
5. **Maintenance of external cardiac support devices**, including percutaneous Left Ventricular Assist Devices (pLVAD), Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) devices, etc.
6. Administration or maintenance of **high flow oxygen via nasal cannula.**



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Changelog:

Date of Change	Summary of Change
4/23/2020	Extended the mandatory date of compliance with the Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics to January 1, 2021. Also separated the Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics from the main Scope of Practice.
4/23/2020	Added “Administration or maintenance of high flow oxygen via nasal cannula.”