



**SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR EMS PERSONNEL (PLS)  
 GEORGIA OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA  
 POLICY: SOP (PLS)-2020-1 (effective 12/07/2022)**

Approval:		12/07/2022
	Michael Johnson, Director, Office of EMS and Trauma	Date
	<i>Patrick McDougal MD</i>	12/07/2022
	Patrick McDougal, MD, State EMS Medical Director	Date

**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. Georgia licensed Paramedics are only permitted to perform any of the skills below if the following requirements are met for EACH specific skill for EACH EMS agency that the skill will be performed at. EMS agencies will only be approved to utilize post-licensure paramedic skills if all the requirements below are met.

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. It is recommended that Paramedics being considered and approved for these post-licensure skills have at least 2 years of experience at the Paramedic or RN level.

**EMS Agency Initial and Continuing Requirements**

Prior to initial approval and on a bi-annual basis thereafter, EMS agencies must submit an agency 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; and
- Documentation of the level of local EMS Medical Director involvement and support.

Prior to initial approval and on an annual basis thereafter, Initial Education and Continued Competency Education for each post-license skill approved for the EMS agency must be submitted annually in the License Management System as an Education Request by the EMS agency.

**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:
  - Protocols, standing orders, or training curriculum – this must be submitted **prior** to the use of the protocol, standing order or training; and
  - 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 January 1, 2021.

**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 <b>Advanced Transport Ventilators (ATV)</b> that are capable of more advanced modes (i.e., capable of adjusting more than rate and tidal volume).
2. <b>Initiation of additional units of blood/blood products</b> , 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. <b>Maintenance of Intra-Aortic Balloon Pumps (IABPs)</b>
4. <b>Maintenance of Transvenous Cardiac Pacing (TVP) devices</b>
5. <b>Maintenance of external cardiac support devices</b> , including percutaneous Left Ventricular Assist Devices (pLVAD), Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) devices, etc.
6. Administration or maintenance of <b>high flow oxygen via nasal cannula</b> .
7. <b>Initiation of the administration of blood/blood products in the pre-hospital environment.</b>



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Revision History:

Date of Revision	Summary of Revision
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.”
12/7/2022	Added “Initiation of the administration of blood/blood products in the pre-hospital environment.” Changed EMS agency PLS approval to a 2-year period.