State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Emergency Medical Services Certification Commission

Scope of Practice Clarification for Licensed Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Practitioners

On June 26, 2020, the EMS Certification Commission (EMSCC) discussed and approved the Scope of Practice for all licensed practitioners in Louisiana.

EMS practice is defined by the National EMS Education standards which provide licensed practitioners with a framework for the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to practice at each level of EMS certification. The Louisiana Scope of Practice includes a state-created identification of skills and procedures that are not currently addressed by the National EMS Education Standards that are permitted with documentation of specialized training. (located on the Louisiana Bureau of EMS website, see Louisiana EMS Scope of Practice)

The Louisiana Scope of Practice states, “All Skills / Procedures / Interventions / Medications must be included in Agency-specific protocols approved by a medical director.” Therefore, it is the opinion of the EMSCC that any limitations to types, classes, or administration routes for medications as well as skills, procedure and interventions at any level are defined by the Medical Director's written protocols and procedures. The job functions of EMS practitioners working in roles such as Community Wellness, Health Promotion, Prevention, Mobile Integrated Healthcare, Industrial, Pre-Hospital as well In-Hospital settings is included in this scope of practice.

Respectfully,

Ryan Brown,
Vice Chair, Emergency Medical Services Certification Commission