

**RULES OF
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATION
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 1200-12-05
CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC**

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1200-12-5-.01 PREAMBLE: To provide for the on-going care of a critically injured or ill patient during an inter-facility transport and other special situations, the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board authorizes endorsement of EMT-Paramedics with additional training to perform special critical care. The Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Critical Care shall be a person who is licensed as a Tennessee Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic and has successfully completed a critical care paramedic program recognized by the Division of Emergency Medical Services, Tennessee Department of Health or comparable training and education, and received endorsement from the training institution and the department, and who is licensed to practice advanced emergency medical care upon the order or under the supervision of a physician or authorized registered nurse.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-504, 68-140-506, 68-140-508, and 68-140-517.

Administrative History: Original rule filed August 24, 2006; effective November 7, 2006.

1200-12-5-.02 SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC: An experienced Paramedic who has received additional training and possesses the following skills can conduct care for critically ill patients of all ages through the ability to:

- (1) Provide patient care during transport and in special situations with such devices as are approved by the EMS Board.
- (2) Access existing and manage invasive lines such as but not limited to: Parenteral Internal Central Catheters (PICC), Hickman catheters, Portacaths, central, and arterial lines.
- (3) Initiate and manage ventilators.
- (4) Manage care of tracheostomy tubes.
- (5) Initiate and manage surgical airways and chest tubes.
- (6) Provide care for cardiac patients, with but not limited to, cardiac interventions and advanced therapeutic devices.
- (7) Perform and interpret 12-lead electrocardiograms.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-504, 68-140-506, 68-140-508, and 68-140-517.

Administrative History: Original rule filed August 24, 2006; effective November 7, 2006.

1200-12-5-.03 CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC REQUIREMENTS. All persons desiring endorsement of their Paramedic license as a Critical Care Paramedic pursuant to T.C.A Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 5 must comply with the following requirements and standards:

- (1) Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Critical Care Paramedic endorsement requirements:
 - (a) Must meet all the Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic requirements in 1200-12-1- .04(2) and must be currently licensed as paramedic in good standing in Tennessee and submit an application and fees to the Division for modification of the license by endorsement demonstrating:
 1. Successful completion of a Board approved Critical Care Paramedic Program; and,
 2. Successful completion with a passing score as established by the Board on an approved endorsement examination.
 - (i) After the third attempt to complete the exam an individual must show remediation from the critical care program before they may take the examination again.
 - (ii) After six unsuccessful attempts in less than two years, the individual must repeat the entire training before attempting examination.
 - (b) Endorsement must be obtained within two years of completion of an approved course.
- (2) Individuals completing a Critical Care Paramedic Course prior to effective date of this rule may make application for endorsement. Individuals must show documentation of completion of a Critical Care Paramedic Course and must complete a qualifying examination as outlined in (1) (a) 2. Individuals will have two (2) years to complete the examination requirements before being required to repeat the course.
- (3) Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Critical Care or such students during training in an approved Critical Care Program may utilize procedures under medical control as identified (above in .02, Scope of Practice).
- (4) Continued endorsement is contingent on renewal of Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic license and meeting the following requirements:
 - (a) Shall demonstrate a minimum of ten (10) additional continuing education contact hours in critical care topics within a two year period in order to perform their professional duties.
 - (b) Continued competence activities may include but are not limited to continuing education, in-service, and attendance and participation in other approved critical care programs.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-504, 68-140-506, 68-140-508, and 68-140-517.
Administrative History: Original rule filed August 24, 2006; effective November 7, 2006.

**1200-12-5-.04 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN- PARAMEDIC -CRITICAL CARE
PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

- (1) Definitions. Within this Rule, the following terms shall apply:
 - (a) Approval: Means the process of training program approval used to assure compliance with the requirements of the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board and the policies of the Division of Emergency Medical Services.
 - (b) Approved Program: Means a training program approved by the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board.
 - (c) Contract or Agreement: Means a written agreement between the training program and the cooperating agency.

- (2) All programs offered by facilities, institutions, or agencies desiring to qualify applicants for EMT-P Critical Care endorsement shall conform to the standards approved by the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board and such rules as shall be promulgated by the Department.
 - (a) Purpose of Approval
 1. To insure the safety and quality of practice by the Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic - Critical Care (EMT-P CC) by setting standards for each program preparing the critical care provider.
 2. To insure graduates of approved programs eligibility for endorsement.

- (3) Approval shall be categorized, and awarded or revoked in accordance with the following criteria.
 - (a) Initial approval is granted a new program that has not been in operation long enough to complete its first class but demonstrates its eligibility for full approval. The program shall be reviewed after one year or when the first students complete the program.
 - (b) Full approval is granted a program for a period of four (4) years that has met the requirements that are set forth by the EMS Board and the policies of the Division of EMS.
 - (c) Conditional approval may be accorded a program which has failed to maintain minimum standards and has been notified that it must meet the requirements within a specified time period.
 - (d) Approval shall be denied or may be revoked or conditioned for failure to comply with the standards established by the board.
 - (e) Renewal of approval. Renewal for a period of four (4) years shall be based on recommendations of the Division to the Board utilizing surveys, site visits, conferences, review of documentation instructor student ratio, instructor qualifications and related evidence of continuing compliance with the regulations of the Board and policies of the Division. If deficiencies are not

(Rule 1200-12-5-.04, continued)

corrected within the specified time, and until such action is approved by the board, the program shall not convene a subsequent class.

- (4) Philosophy, Purpose, Capabilities and Organization
- (a) All facilities, institutions, or agencies seeking initial and continuing approval shall have a written statement of the educational philosophy and purpose of the program.
 - (b) Capabilities. The facilities, institutions, or agencies shall:
 - 1. Maintain liaison with a hospital which is capable of supporting Critical Care Paramedic Clinical training; and,
 - 2. Ensure the financial support, equipment, facilities, and leadership which will provide for a sound educational program; and,
 - 3. Ensure student competency in knowledge and experience and shall endorse participants for eligibility to complete endorsement examinations.
 - (c) Organization:
 - 1. The facilities, institutions, or agencies shall demonstrate effective organization and shall be administered in ways conducive to the management of training programs.
 - 2. An accurate, comprehensive records system shall be maintained for all phases of the program and shall be available for inspection during survey visits.
- (5) Faculty: The faculty shall be experienced in the field area for course content, such as, but not limited to, critical care professionals, attorneys, and Registered Respiratory Therapists.
- (6) Medical Director
- (a) Each program shall have a licensed physician who serves as the medical advisor.
- (7) Student admission:
- (a) Each student must hold a current license as a Paramedic in Tennessee with a minimum of two years experience as an Advanced Care Provider; and,
 - (b) Must hold current certification in an Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and an advanced Trauma Care course.
- (8) Training Facilities
- (a) Classrooms, Laboratories, Offices. Facilities, institutions, or agencies shall provide adequate teaching facilities and laboratories and clinical facilities sufficient for instruction.
 - (b) Clinical Facilities: The clinical facilities must provide for student learning experiences as identified in the Board approved curriculum.

(Rule 1200-12-5-.04, continued)

- (9) Curriculum Review: A copy of the complete curriculum, statements of course objectives, copies of course outlines, class schedules, schedules of supervised clinical experience, and teaching plans shall be on file and available for review and inspections by an authorized representative of the EMS Division with other information as follows:
 - (a) Evidence of student competency in achieving the performance of the educational objectives of the program shall be kept on file.
 - (b) Procedures for evaluation of teaching effectiveness and instruction shall be established by the program.
- (10) Only students from Tennessee approved programs or those who have completed an equivalent curriculum in other states, as determined by the board or the Division shall be eligible for State endorsement.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-504, 68-140-506, 68-140-508, and 68-140-517.

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