



## **Ambulance Technician Scope of Practice**

### **Introduction**

This scope of practice defines the working role of the Ambulance Technician and should be read in conjunction with the Ambulance Technician Job Description. It outlines the general work role and defines the specific responsibilities associated with the role.

This document also defines the boundaries of practice which the Ambulance Technician must always operate within.

### **Work Role**

The Ambulance Technician may work with an ECA, Ambulance Technician, Paramedic or Emergency Care Practitioner. When working with an ECA the Ambulance Technician is defined as the senior clinician and clinical lead with responsibility and accountability for all aspects of patient care. When working with a Paramedic the Ambulance Technician will operate in a supportive role to the Paramedic who is designated as the senior clinician and clinical lead. On occasions the Ambulance Technician may also work with another Ambulance Technician and when doing so the attendant will be the senior clinician and clinical lead. In exceptional circumstances the Ambulance Technician may also work solo on a FRV. In all configurations described above the Ambulance Technician will adhere to the following scope of practice.

The Ambulance Technician will be able to respond to the full range of emergency, urgent and routine calls.

### **Key accountabilities**

The Ambulance Technician must:

- Practice within the legal and ethical boundaries of their work role.
- Practice in a non-discriminatory manner
- Maintain confidentiality and obtain informed consent
- Exercise a duty of care
- Know and understand the professional and personal scope of their practice and when to seek assistance or guidance from senior clinical staff.
- Maintain their level of knowledge and their fitness to practice
- Reflect on their performance and use reflection to improve their practice.
- Undertake development in order to maintain knowledge and skills in line with developments and changes to the role.

## **Working relationships.**

The Ambulance Technician must:

- Work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team under the direction of other more senior clinical staff.
- Work effectively with other Ambulance Technicians, ECA's and Paramedics when responding as a crew.
- Work in collaboration with other Health Care Professionals to act in the best interests of patient care.
- Take the role of lead clinician whilst working with an Emergency Care Assistant.
- Understand the need for effective communication throughout the care of the patient. This may be with service users, patients, relatives, carers and bystanders.

## **Identification of basic health and social needs**

The Ambulance Technician must:

- Undertake immediate scene survey and a dynamic risk assessment in order to establish the presence of hazards.
- When working with a senior clinician such as a Paramedic always ensure they are informed of any changes to the patient's condition.
- When working with another Ambulance Technician, ECA, or solo responder request additional advice or support from a senior clinician via the Clinical Assessment Team as and when required.
- When working with an ECA ensure all patient documentation is countersigned.
- Undertake an adult and/or child safeguarding referral in accordance with the relevant EMAS policies.

## **Equipment and Resources**

The Ambulance Technician must:

- Undertake daily serviceability checks on:
  - vehicles
  - all clinical equipment including those used by more senior clinicians
  - communication equipment
- Use communication / data equipment to input, store, retrieve and transmit information.
- Ensure the safe and legal storage of all equipment and medical gases.
- Use equipment and resources in a way which minimises waste and impact upon the environment.

- In accordance with Trust policies and procedures, ensure that own personal practices in infection prevention and control meet the requirements of the hygiene code and health & safety at work; this will include cleaning of ambulance vehicles and equipment, maintaining cleanliness of vehicles and equipment, own personal hygiene and promotion of good infection prevention and control standards for the protection of self, colleagues and patients from healthcare acquired infections.
- Ensure vehicles and equipment meet agreed serviceability, ensuring that they are kept in a state of cleanliness and any defects are recorded and reported for action to be taken
- Be able to store and dispose of hazardous substances such as clinical waste and sharps in line with Trust policy and procedures.
- Identify equipment shortage and restock as required.
- Drive a range of ambulance vehicles in accordance with road traffic law and Trust policy and procedures in order to promote patients condition and prevent deterioration and to, minimise vehicle wear and tear,
- Use equipment in line with manufacturers guidelines and Trust procedures to transfer and transport patients safely and in a manner which minimises any negative impact upon their condition and promotes improvement in their condition.
- Be able to apply immobilisation devices in patients presenting with suspected traumatic injuries or in cases where use the use of these devices will benefit patient care.

### **Supporting and providing patient care**

The Ambulance Technician must:

- Be competent in resuscitation practice.
- Be able to use simple adjuncts in order to maintain a patient's airway. This will include the use of a bag-valve-mask and oropharyngeal airway (OPA), Nasopharyngeal airway (NPA) and Supraglottic Airway Devices (SAD).
- Undertake laryngoscopy to enable clearance of foreign bodies only.
- Be able to use both an automated external defibrillation (AED) and a manual external defibrillation device as part of the resuscitation effort in cardiac arrest.
- Support and assist senior clinical staff in the preparation and use of patient care equipment and techniques.
- Support senior clinical staff in the preparation and administration of drugs in line with Trust policy and procedure.
- Be able to obtain a patient history and perform a primary and secondary patient assessment.
- Assessment and documentation of a patients capacity to consent to treatment.
- Be able to recognise a range of clinical conditions and injuries and administer the appropriate treatment including the use of the following drugs:

- Oxygen
  - Entonox
  - Aspirin
  - Hypostop.
  - Glucagon IM
  - Adrenaline 1:1000 IM
  - Naloxone IM and IN
  - Salbutamol
  - GTN
  - Paracetamol
  - Ibuprofen
  - Ipratropium Bromide
- Be able to record the following observations and recognise and act upon abnormal measurements:
    - a manual and automated blood pressure
    - SPO<sub>2</sub> measurements
    - ETCO<sub>2</sub> measurements
    - Temperature
    - blood glucose
  - Be able to undertake cardiac monitoring and a 12 lead Electrocardiograph (ECG) and be able to recognise abnormalities and a range of rhythms including Ventricular Fibrillation (VF), ventricular tachycardia (VT), Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA), Asystole,
  - Be able to perform a FAST test in order to identify stroke and access the local stroke pathway.
  - Be able to recognise patients who are suitable to be managed using alternatives to the Emergency Department by using EMAS clinical guidelines such as the Paramedic Pathfinder tool.
  - Follow the use of EMAS clinical guidance and the Paramedic Pathfinder tool and refer suitable patients through to alternative care providers, following a clinician to clinician handover. This can be undertaken without the involvement of the Clinical Assessment Team.
  - Be able to recognise death and manage the bereavement with relatives.
  - Be able to recognise time critical patients and where appropriate when working with an ECA, Ambulance Technician or as a solo responder recognise when to seek senior clinical advice via the Clinical Assessment Team.
  - Be able to use triage systems such as the Paramedic Pathfinder and National Early Warning Scoring to identify urgency and mode of transport.
  - Seek the assistance of the Clinical Assessment Team if they require additional clinical support.

## **Boundaries of Practice**

The Ambulance Technician must:

- Make use of the Paramedic Pathfinder triage Tool, NEW scoring and undertake a 'clinician to clinician' handover when undertaking a referral to an ED alternative, i.e. GP, UCC, MIU, etc.
- Seek guidance from a senior clinician or the Clinical Assessment Team if a patient refuses treatment or transport to hospital and does not have capacity to do so.
- Undertake resuscitation attempts in alignment with the Diagnosis of Death Procedure in patients presenting in cardiac arrest.

**The Paramedic or Registered Nurse will always be the clinical lead when working with an Ambulance Technician.**

### **Trainee Technicians Status**

- Whilst within their probationary 750 hours and until sign off against their competency portfolio a Trainee Technician will work with the following restrictions against the Scope of Practice detailed above.
  - Must not use a defibrillator in manual mode and instead use as an AED.
  - Use of Paramedic Pathfinder without the assistance of the Clinical Assessment Team (it is the responsibility of the attending Trainee to inform the CAT of their Trainee status).
  - With the exception of oxygen, entonox, aspirin, ibuprofen and paracetamol the Trainee Technician must not administer any medication unless supervised by a Qualified Technician or Paramedic.
  - The Trainee Ambulance Technician is not permitted to diagnose the fact of death, however, they should still not commence resuscitation in conditions unequivocally associated with death:
    - Massive Cranial and cerebral destruction
    - Hemitorporectomy or similar massive injury
    - Decomposition/ putrefaction
    - Incineration
    - Hypostasis
    - Rigor Mortis
    - Foetal Maceration
  - Must not work as a solo responder.