

COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Policy Title: EMT Optional Skills Plan		Policy Number 303-B
APPROVED: Administration:	Steve L. Carroll, Paramedic 	Date: December 1, 2023
APPROVED: Medical Director:	Daniel Shepherd, M.D. 	Date: December 1, 2023
Origination Date:	September 14, 2023	
Date Revised:		Effective Date: December 1, 2023
Date Last Reviewed:		
Review Date:	September 30, 2024	

- I. PURPOSE: This plan is intended to outline the optional skills utilized by EMTs, in accordance with VCEMS Policies and Procedures.
- II. AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code 1797.80, 1797.184, 1797.214, 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100061 and 100064
- III. PLAN:
 - A. Skills Allowed
 - 1. Certified EMTs, accredited in Ventura County in accordance with policy 305, will be allowed to perform the following optional skills:
 - a) Use of perilyngeal airway adjuncts (**Not approved at this time**)
 - b) Administration of epinephrine by prefilled syringe and/or drawing up the proper drug dose into a syringe for suspected anaphylaxis and/or severe asthma
 - c) Administration of atropine and/or pralidoxime chloride using prepackaged products
 - 2. In order to perform the allowed optional skills a certified EMT must be:
 - a) employed by an agency that is authorized by VCEMS and that delivers prehospital care as part of the organized EMS system, and
 - b) must be accredited by Ventura County EMS in accordance with VCEMS Policy 305 – EMT Accreditation to Practice.
 - 3. In order to acquire accreditation EMTs must complete, and provide completion of, the training requirements detailed in VCEMSA policy 303 - EMT Optional Skills and section 100064 of the California Code of Regulations, as well as any additional mandatory training requirements outlined in VCEMS Policy 334 – Prehospital Personnel Mandatory Training Requirements. In addition, the EMT shall complete the accreditation process detailed in policy 305 - EMT Optional Skills Accreditation.

B. Need for Optional Skills

1. The optional skills listed above allow EMTs in Ventura County to perform critical, potentially lifesaving, interventions. The allowed skills are narrow in scope, but when indicated, should be performed as quickly as possible. The available research suggests that appropriately trained EMTs can perform these interventions safely and effectively.

C. Geographic Area of Skills Deployment

1. EMTs accredited to perform optional skills by VCEMS, in accordance with policies 303 and 305, and who work for authorized prehospital provider agencies, will be allowed to do so in all operational areas of the County.

D. Data Collection

1. Any EMT performing optional skills must document the intervention in the Ventura County Electronic Patient Care Report (VCePCR) in accordance with VCEMS Policy 1000 - Documentation of Prehospital Care
2. Optional skills will be monitored as part of VCEMS's quality improvement program (EMSQIP). All uses of optional skills will be reviewed to ensure they are performed safely and effectively.

E. Applicable Policies and Procedures

1. 303 - EMT Optional Skills
2. 305 - EMT Optional Skills Accreditation
3. 334 - Prehospital Personnel Mandatory Training Requirements
4. 705.02 - Allergic Reaction and Anaphylaxis
5. 705.17 - Nerve agent / Organophosphate Poisoning
6. 705.22 - Shortness of Breath – Wheezes/other
7. 733 - Cardiac Arrest Management (CAM) and Post Arrest (ROSC) Resuscitation
8. 1000 - Documentation of Prehospital Care