

**PEORIA AREA EMS SYSTEM  
PREHOSPITAL CARE MANUAL**

**Levels of Prehospital Care**  
*EMS Services*

**First Responder Services** defines a preliminary level of prehospital emergency care as outlined in the First Responder National Curriculum of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and any modification to that curriculum specified in rules adopted by IDPH pursuant to the EMS Act. First Responder care includes: ***CPR, AED services, monitoring vital signs, administration of oxygen and bleeding control.***

**Basic Life Support (BLS) Services** defines a level of prehospital and inter-hospital medical services as outlined in the Basic Life Support National Curriculum of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and any modification to that curriculum specified in rules adopted by IDPH pursuant to the EMS Act. BLS emergency and non-emergency care includes: ***Basic airway management, CPR, AED services, control of shock & bleeding and splinting of fractures.*** BLS services may be enhanced with the administration of System-approved medications and the Combitube.

**Intermediate Life Support (ILS) Services** defines a level of prehospital and inter-hospital medical services as outlined in the Intermediate Life Support National Curriculum of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and any modifications to that curriculum specified in rules adopted by IDPH pursuant to the EMS Act. ILS emergency and non-emergency care includes: ***Basic life support care, intravenous fluid therapy, oral intubation, EKG interpretation, 12-lead acquisition, defibrillation procedures and administration of System-approved medications.***

**Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services** defines a level of prehospital and inter-hospital medical services as outlined in the Paramedic Life Support National Curriculum of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and any modifications to that curriculum specified in the EMS Act. ALS emergency and non-emergency care includes: ***Basic and intermediate life support care, ACLS electrocardiography and resuscitation techniques, administration of medications, drugs & solutions, use of adjunctive medical devices, CPAP, chest decompression and intraosseous access.***

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*Prehospital Personnel*

1. A currently licensed First Responder, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P or PHRN may perform emergency and non-emergency medical services as defined in the EMS Act and in accordance with his or her level of education, training and licensure. Prehospital personnel must uphold the standards of performance and conduct prescribed by the Department (IDPH) in rules adopted pursuant to the Act and the requirements of the EMS System in which he or she practices, as contained in the approved System Program Plan.
  
2. A person currently licensed as an EMT-B, EMT-I or EMT-P may only use their EMT license in prehospital/inter-hospital emergency care settings or non-emergency medical transport situations under the written directions of the EMS Medical Director.
  
3. **First Responder:** Provides care consistent with the definition of a First Responder service and within the context of Standing Medical Orders (SMOs) or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). First Responder care should be focused on assessing the situation and establishing initial care.

First Responders who provide medical care in the Peoria Area EMS System must be trained in the use of an AED and hold a *First Responder/Defibrillator (FR-D)* recognition card from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

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- 4. Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B):** Provides care consistent with the definition of a BLS service and within the context of SMOs or SOPs. This may include interventions involving airway access/maintenance, ventilatory support, oxygen delivery, bleeding control, spinal immobilization and splinting isolated fractures.

EMT-B attention is directed at conducting a thorough patient assessment, providing appropriate care and preparing or providing patient transportation. In addition, EMT-Bs may assist the patient in self-administering prescribed Nitroglycerin (NTG), Proventil (Albuterol) or an Epi-Pen pending an ALS response. EMT-Bs who are System-certified and functioning with an approved B-Med agency may carry and administer various approved medications and the Combitube.

AEDs are required on BLS vehicles officially incorporated into the EMS System Plan.

Transporting BLS agencies are required to carry a cardiac monitor that has monitoring capabilities, AED capability and a printer that can generate an EKG strip or code summary. This is *strongly recommended* but not required of non-transporting BLS agencies who administer medications.

- 5. Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate (EMT-I):** Provides care consistent with the definition of an ILS service and within the context of SMOs or SOPs. This may include all BLS skills, along with intravenous fluid therapy, oral intubation, EKG interpretation, 12-lead acquisition, defibrillation procedures and administration of System-approved medications. EMT-I attention is directed at conducting a thorough patient assessment, providing appropriate care and preparing or providing patient transportation.

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PREHOSPITAL CARE MANUAL**

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- 6. Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic (EMT-P):** Provides care consistent with the definition of an ALS service and within the context of SMOs or SOPs. This includes all BLS and ILS skills, advanced EKG skills with prompt intervention using Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), administration of System-approved medications & IV solutions, proper use of System-approved adjunctive medical devices (e.g. CPAP) and performance of advanced medical procedures (e.g. needle chest decompression and intraosseous access). The patient’s condition and chief complaint determine the necessity and extent of ALS care rendered. Consideration should be given to the proximity of the receiving hospital.

The EMT-P level may be enhanced to include selected critical care medications and skills for inter-facility transfers.

- 7. Prehospital RN (PHRN):** The Illinois EMS Act (1995) defines a PHRN as “a registered professional nurse licensed under the Illinois Nursing Act of 1987 who has successfully completed supplemental education in accordance with rules adopted by the Department (IDPH) pursuant to the Act, and who is approved by an EMS Medical Director to practice within an EMS System as emergency medical services personnel for Prehospital and inter-hospital emergency care and non-emergency medical transports”.