

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: Introduction to Paramedicine

Prefix and Course Number: EMS 200

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Understand his or her roles and responsibilities within an EMS system, including: the well-being of the paramedic, illness and injury prevention, medical/legal issues, ethics, and patients with special challenges.

Course Outline: Preparatory

- I. Define the following terms: (C-1)
 - A. EMS Systems
 - B. Licensure
 - C. Certification
 - D. Registration
 - E. Profession
 - F. Professionalism
 - G. Health care professional
 - H. Ethics
 - I. Peer review
 - J. Medical direction
 - K. Protocols
- II. Describe key historical events that influenced the development of national Emergency Medical Services
- III. (EMS) systems. (C-1)
- IV. Identify national groups important to the development, education, and implementation of EMS. (C-1)
- V. Differentiate among the four nationally recognized levels of EMS training/ education, leading to licensure/certification/registration. (C-1)
- VI. Describe the attributes of a paramedic as a health care professional. (C-1)
- VII. Describe the recognized levels of EMS training/ed, leading to licensure/cert in his or her state. (C-1)
- VIII. Explain paramedic licensure/certification, recert., & reciprocity requirements in his or her state. (C-1)
- IX. Evaluate the importance of maintaining one=s paramedic license/ certification. (C-3)
- X. Describe the benefits of paramedic continuing education. (C-1)
- XI. List current state requirements for paramedic education in his/ her state. (C-1)
- XII. Discuss the role of national associations and of a national registry agency. (C-1)
- XIII. Discuss current issues in his/ her state impacting EMS. (C-1)
- XIV. Discuss the roles of various EMS standard setting agencies. (C-1)
- XV. Identify the standards (components) of an EMS System as defined by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (C-1)
- XVI. Describe how professionalism applies to the paramedic while on and off duty. (C-1)
- XVII. Describe examples of professional behaviors in the following areas: integrity, empathy, self-motivation, appearance and personal hygiene, self-confidence, communications, time management, teamwork and diplomacy, respect, patient advocacy, and careful delivery of service. (C-1)
- XVIII. Provide examples of activities that constitute appropriate professional behavior for a paramedic.

(C-2)

- XIX.** Describe the importance of quality EMS research to the future of EMS. (C-3)
- XX.** Identify the benefits of paramedics teaching in their community. (C-1)
- XXI.** Describe what is meant by "citizen involvement in the EMS system." (C-1)
- XXII.** Analyze how the paramedic can benefit the health care system by supporting primary care to patients in the out-of-hospital setting. (C-3)
- XXIII.** List the primary and additional responsibilities of paramedics. (C-1)
- XXIV.** Describe the role of the EMS physician in providing medical direction. (C-1)
- XXV.** Describe the benefits of medical direction, both on-line and off-line. (C-1)
- XXVI.** Describe the process for the development of local policies and protocols. (C-2)
- XXVII.** Provide examples of local protocols. (C-1)
- XXVIII.** Discuss prehospital and out-of-hospital care as an extension of the physician. (C-1)
- XXIX.** Describe the relationship between a physician on the scene, the paramedic on the scene, and the EMS physician providing on-line medical direction. (C-1)
- XXX.** Describe the components of continuous quality improvement. (C-1)
- XXXI.** Analyze the role of continuous quality improvement with respect to continuing medical education and research. (C-3)
- XXXII.** Define the role of the paramedic relative to the safety of the crew, the patient, and bystanders. (C-1)
- XXXIII.** Identify local health care agencies and transportation resources for patients with special needs. (C-1)
- XXXIV.** Describe the role of the paramedic in health education activities related to illness and injury prevention. (C-1)
- XXXV.** Describe the importance and benefits of research. (C-2)
- XXXVI.** Explain the EMS provider=s role in data collection. (C-1)
- XXXVII.** Explain the basic principles of research. (C-1)
- XXXVIII.** Describe a process of evaluating and interpreting research. (C-3)
- XXXIX.** Assess personal practices relative to the responsibility for personal safety, the safety of the crew, the patient, and bystanders. (A-3)
 - XL.** Serve as a role model for others relative to professionalism in EMS. (A-3)
 - XLI.** Value the need to serve as the patient advocate inclusive of those with special needs, alternate life styles and cultural diversity. (A-3)
 - XLII.** Defend the importance of continuing medical education and skills retention. (A-3)
 - XLIII.** Advocate the need for supporting and participating in research efforts aimed at improving EMS systems. (A-3)
 - XLIV.** Assess personal attitudes and demeanor that may distract from professionalism. (A-3)
 - XLV.** Value the role that family dynamics plays in the total care of patients. (A-3)
 - XLVI.** Advocate the need for injury prevention, including abusive situations. (A-1)
 - XLVII.** Exhibit professional behaviors in the following areas: integrity, empathy, self-motivation, appearance and personal hygiene, self-confidence, communications, time management, teamwork and diplomacy, respect, patient advocacy, and careful delivery of service. (A-2)
- XLVIII.** Discuss the concept of wellness and its benefits. (C-1)
- XLIX.** Define the components of wellness. (C-1)
 - L.** Describe the role of the paramedic in promoting wellness. (C-1)
 - LI.** Discuss the components of wellness associated with proper nutrition. (C-1)
 - LII.** List principles of weight control. (C-1)
 - LIII.** Discuss how cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, and flexibility contribute to physical fitness. (C-2)
- LIV.** Describe the impact of shift work on circadian rhythms. (C-1)
- LV.** Discuss how periodic risk assessments and knowledge of warning signs contribute to cancer and cardiovascular disease prevention. (C-1)

- LVI. Differentiate proper from improper body mechanics for lifting and moving patients in emergency and non-emergency situations. (C-3)
- LVII. Describe the problems that a paramedic might encounter in a hostile situation and the techniques used to manage the situation. (C-1)
- LVIII. Given a scenario involving arrival at the scene of a motor vehicle collision, assess the safety of the scene and propose ways to make the scene safer. (C-3)
- LIX. List factors that contribute to safe vehicle operations. (C-1)
- LXI. Describe the considerations that should be given to: (C-1)
 - a. Using escorts
 - b. Adverse environmental conditions
 - c. Using lights and siren
 - d. Proceeding through intersections
 - e. Parking at an emergency scene
- LXII. Discuss the concept of "due regard for the safety of all others" while operating an emergency vehicle. (C-1)
- LXIII. Describe the equipment available for self-protection when confronted with a variety of adverse situations. (C-1)
- LXIV. Describe the benefits and methods of smoking cessation. (C-1)
- LXV. Describe the three phases of the stress response. (C-1)
- LXVI. List factors that trigger the stress response. (C-1)
- LXVII. Differentiate between normal/ healthy and detrimental reactions to anxiety and stress. (C-3)
- LXVIII. Describe the common physiological and psychological effects of stress. (C-1)
- LXIX. Identify causes of stress in EMS. (C-1)
- LXX. Describe behavior that is a manifestation of stress in patients and those close to them and how these relate to paramedic stress. (C-1)
- LXXI. Identify and describe the defense mechanisms and management techniques commonly used to deal with stress. (C-1)
- LXXII. Describe the components of critical incident stress management (CISM). (C-1)
- LXXIII. Provide examples of situations in which CISM would likely be beneficial to paramedics. (C-1)
- LXXIV. Given a scenario involving a stressful situation, formulate a strategy to help cope with the stress. (C-3)
- LXXV. Describe the stages of the grieving process (Kubler-Ross). (C-1)
- LXXVI. Describe the needs of the paramedic when dealing with death and dying. (C-1)
- LXXVII. Describe the unique challenges for paramedics in dealing with the needs of children and other special populations related to their understanding or experience of death and dying. (C-1)
- LXXVIII. Discuss the importance of universal precautions and body substance isolation practices. (C-1)
- LXXIX. Describe the steps to take for personal protection from airborne and bloodborne pathogens. (C-1)
- LXXX. Given a scenario in which equipment and supplies have been exposed to body substances, plan for the proper cleaning, disinfection, and disposal of the items. (C-3)
- LXXXI. Explain what is meant by an exposure and describe principles for management. (C-1)
- LXXXII. Advocate the benefits of working toward the goal of total personal wellness. (A-2)
- LXXXIII. Serve as a role model for other EMS providers in regard to a total wellness lifestyle. (A-3)
- LXXXIV. Value the need to assess his/ her own lifestyle. (A-2)
- LXXXV. Challenge his/ herself to each wellness concept in his/ her role as a paramedic. (A-3)
- LXXXVI. Defend the need to treat each patient as an individual, with respect and dignity. (A-2)
- LXXXVII. Assess his/ her own prejudices related to the various aspects of cultural diversity. (A-3)
- LXXXVIII. Improve personal physical well-being through achieving and maintaining proper body weight, regular exercise and proper nutrition. (A-3)
- LXXXIX. Improve personal physical well-being through achieving and maintaining proper body weight, regular exercise and proper nutrition. (A-3)
- XC. Improve personal physical well-being through achieving and maintaining proper body weight, regular exercise and proper nutrition. (A-3)

- XCI. Promote and practice stress management techniques. (A-3)
- XCII. Defend the need to respect the emotional needs of dying patients and their families. (A-3)
- XCIII. Advocate and practice the use of personal safety precautions in all scene situations. (A-3)
- XCIV. Advocate and serve as a role model for other EMS providers relative to body substance isolation practices.
- XCV. Demonstrate safe methods for lifting and moving patients in emergency and non-emergency situations. (P-2)
- XCVI. Demonstrate the proper procedures to take for personal protection from disease. (P-2)
- XCVII. Describe the incidence, morbidity and mortality of unintentional and alleged unintentional events. (C-1)
- XCVIII. Identify the human, environmental, and socioeconomic impact of unintentional and alleged unintentional events. (C-1)
- XCIX. Identify health hazards and potential crime areas within the community. (C-1)
 - C. Identify local municipal and community resources available for physical, socioeconomic crises. (C-1)
 - CI. List the general and specific environmental parameters that should be inspected to assess a patient's need for preventative information and direction. (C-1)
 - CII. Identify the role of EMS in local municipal and community prevention programs. (C-1)
 - CIII. Identify the local prevention programs that promote safety for all age populations. (C-2)
 - CIV. Identify patient situations where the paramedic can intervene in a preventative manner. (C-1)
 - CV. Document primary and secondary injury prevention data. (C-1)
 - CVI. Value and defend tenets of prevention in terms of personal safety and wellness. (A-3)
 - CVII. Value and defend tenets of prevention for patients and communities being served. (A-3)
 - CVIII. Value the contribution of effective documentation as one justification for funding of prevention programs. (A-3)
 - CIX. Value personal commitment to success of prevention programs. (A-3)
 - CX. Differentiate between legal and ethical responsibilities. (C-2)
 - CXI. Describe the basic structure of the legal system in the United States. (C-1)
 - CXII. Differentiate between civil and criminal law as it pertains to the paramedic. (C-1)
 - CXIII. Identify and explain the importance of laws pertinent to the paramedic. (C-1)
 - CXIV. Differentiate between licensure and certification as they apply to the paramedic. (C-1)
 - CXV. List the specific problems or conditions encountered while providing care that a paramedic is required to report, and identify in each instance to whom the report is to be made. (C-1)
- CXVI. Define the following terms: (C-1)
 - a. Abandonment
 - b. Advance directives
 - c. Assault
 - d. Battery
 - e. Breach of duty
 - f. Confidentiality
 - g. Consent (expressed, implied, informed, involuntary)
 - h. Do not resuscitate (DNR) orders
 - i. Duty to act
 - j. Emancipated minor
 - k. False imprisonment
 - l. Immunity
 - m. Liability
 - n. Libel
 - o. Minor
 - p. Negligence
 - q. Proximate cause
 - r. Scope of practice

- s. Slander
- t. Standard of care
- u. Tort

- CXVII. Differentiate between the scope of practice and the standard of care for paramedic practice. (C-3)
- CXVIII. Discuss the concept of medical direction, including off-line medical direction and on-line medical direction, and its relationship to the standard of care of a paramedic. (C-1)
- CXIX. Describe the four elements that must be present in order to prove negligence. (C-1)
- CXX. Given a scenario in which a patient is injured while a paramedic is providing care, determine whether the four components of negligence are present. (C-2)
- CXXI. Given a scenario, demonstrate patient care behaviors that would protect the paramedic from claims of negligence. (C-3)
- CXXII. Explain the concept of liability as it might apply to paramedic practice, including physicians providing medical direction and paramedic supervision of other care providers. (C-2)
- CXXIII. Discuss the legal concept of immunity, including Good Samaritan statutes and governmental immunity, as it applies to the paramedic. (C-1)
- CXXIV. Explain the importance and necessity of patient confidentiality and the standards for maintaining patient confidentiality that apply to the paramedic. (C-1)
- CXXV. Differentiate among expressed, informed, implied, and involuntary consent. (C-2)
- CXXVI. Given a scenario in which a paramedic is presented with a conscious patient in need of care, describe the process used to obtain consent. (C-2)
- CXXVII. Identify the steps to take if a patient refuses care. (C-1)
- CXXVIII. Given a scenario, demonstrate appropriate patient management and care techniques in a refusal of care situation. (C-3)
- CXXIX. Describe what constitutes abandonment. (C-1)
- CXXX. Identify the legal issues involved in the decision not to transport a patient, or to reduce the level of care being provided during transportation. (C-1)
- CXXXI. Describe how hospitals are selected to receive patients based on patient need and hospital capability and the role of the paramedic in such selection. (C-1)
- CXXXII. Differentiate between assault and battery and describe how to avoid each. (C-2)
- CXXXIII. Describe the conditions under which the use of force, including restraint, is acceptable. (C-1)
- CXXXIV. Explain the purpose of advance directives relative to patient care and how the paramedic should care for a patient who is covered by an advance directive. (C-1)
- CXXXV. Discuss the responsibilities of the paramedic relative to resuscitation efforts for patients who are potential organ donors. (C-1)
- CXXXVI. Describe the actions that the paramedic should take to preserve evidence at a crime or accident scene. (C-1)
- CXXXVII. Describe the importance of providing accurate documentation (oral and written) in substantiating an incident. (C-1)
- CXXXVIII. Describe the characteristics of a patient care report required to make it an effective legal document. (C-1)
- CXXXIX. Given a scenario, prepare a patient care report, including an appropriately detailed narrative. (C-2)
- CXL. Advocate the need to show respect for the rights and feelings of patients. (A-3)
- CXLI. Assess his/ her personal commitment to protecting patient confidentiality. (A-3)
- CXLII. Given a scenario involving a new employee, explain the importance of obtaining consent for adults and minors. (A-2)
- CXLIII. Defend personal beliefs about withholding or stopping patient care. (A-3)
- CXLIV. Defend the value of advance medical directives. (A-3)
- CXLV. Define ethics. (C-1)
- CXLVI. Distinguish between ethical and moral decisions. (C-3)

- CXLVII. Identify the premise that should underlie the paramedic's ethical decisions in out-of hospital care. (C-1)
- CXLVIII. Analyze the relationship between the law and ethics in EMS. (C-3)
- CXLIX. Compare and contrast the criteria that may be used in allocating scarce EMS resources. (C-3)
 - CL. Identify the issues surrounding the use of advance directives, in making a prehospital resuscitation decision. (C-1)
 - CLI. Describe the criteria necessary to honor an advance directive in your state. (C-1)
 - CLII. Value the patient's autonomy in the decision-making process. (A-2)
 - CLIII. Defend the following ethical positions: (A-3)
 - a. The paramedic is accountable to the patient.
 - b. The paramedic is accountable to the medical director.
 - c. The paramedic is accountable to the EMS system.
 - d. The paramedic is accountable for fulfilling the standard of care.
- CLIV. Given a scenario, defend or challenge a paramedic's actions concerning a patient who is treated against his/ her wishes. (A-3)
- CLV. Given a scenario, defend a paramedic's actions in a situation where a physician orders therapy the paramedic feels to be detrimental to the patient's best interests. (A-3)