

Revision Date: 6/17/25



Policy 1-02

## SCOPE OF CARE – FLIGHT PARAMEDICS

**PATIENTS:** Critically ill or injured adult, pediatric, and neonatal patients

**PERSONNEL:** Flight Paramedics

### **PROFESSIONALISM:**

1. Practices within the scope of practice defined by Flight For Life (FFL), FFL Medical Director, and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.
2. Practices in accordance with the appropriate licensure endorsing body regulations governing pre-hospital care, guidelines, policies, and procedures set forth by FFL and the FFL Medical Director.
3. Assumes responsibility and accountability for actions.
4. Identifies self and role (Flight Paramedic) to patients, significant others, healthcare providers and any other first responder that they may encounter.
5. Practices independent and collaborative clinical decision-making skills to prioritize advanced patient care and interventions in a safe manner.
6. Utilizes leadership, collaboration, and interpersonal skills to coordinate multidisciplinary teams to care for patients.
7. Formulates and implements appropriate out-of-hospital care based on patient's priorities commensurate with established state and national standards for emergency air transport, program-approved policies, guidelines, and procedures, and on-line and off-line medical control.
8. Evaluates the efficacy and outcome of medical interventions throughout the treatment and transfer process.
9. Collaborates and coordinates with other care providers to facilitate optimum patient care.
10. Communicates in verbal and written formats all information to receiving care providers.
11. Maintains thorough patient care documentation.
12. Participates in patient and referring agency follow-up.
13. Participates in education of the healthcare teams, clients, patients, their significant others, and the community.

Flight Paramedics are authorized to administer medications in accordance within the State of Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Scope of Practice for Critical Care Paramedics and approved by the Flight For Life Medical Director.

May continue to administer medications initiated prior to FFL arrival, with real-time training and education by the transferring physician or by contacting FFL medical control.

### **SKILLS/CLINICAL ACTIVITIES:**

1. Medication administration: IV, IO, IM, IN, SL, PO, SQ, PR
2. Primary, secondary, and on-going patient assessment, including pertinent history of present illness and injury.
3. Airway management: oral and nasal airways, intubation, use of bag valve mask, cricothyroidotomy (needle and surgical), end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring, pulse oximetry, supraglottic airways, oxygen administration, CPAP, BiPAP, High Flow Nasal Cannula, ventilator settings and management.
4. Paralytic administration during rapid sequence intubation (RSI) requires any combination of two licensed medical crew members to be present at the patient's side.
5. Interventions to manage simple or tension pneumothorax: needle thoracostomy.



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6. Circulatory support and management: pericardiocentesis, vasoactive medications, peripheral intravenous insertion, intraosseous needle insertion, administration of IV fluids and blood products.
7. Cardiac support and management: rhythm and 12-lead EKG acquisition and interpretation, defibrillation, cardioversion, pacing devices.
8. High-risk labor and delivery, maternal/child support, and management.
9. Monitoring of vital signs, invasive central venous and arterial lines (including pulmonary artery catheters), intracranial catheters, urinary catheters, gastric catheters, temperature catheters and chest tubes.
10. Management of all FFL-approved cardiac assist devices.
11. Administration of blood products
12. Management of pain and motion sickness during transport.
13. Spinal immobilization and splinting of fractures.
14. Gastric tube insertion (nasal and oral).
15. Infection control measures: adherence to OSHA standards, use of appropriate personal protective equipment.
16. Multiple/mass casualty triage and care.
17. Emotional and psychological support to crew, patient and family.
18. Adheres to all applicable safety standards.
19. Maintains required credentials per Medical Crew Credentialing policy.
20. Maintains required continuing education per the FFL Medical Crew Continuing Education, Clinical, and Staffing Requirements policy.

Reviewed by FFL Standards and Practice Committee 2025.

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 Chief Flight Nurse  
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 Medical Director  
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 Executive Director  
 6/19/2025 | 3:00:00 PM CDT  
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