Chapter 1
Introduction to Advanced Prehospital Care
Topics

- Description of the Profession
- Paramedic Characteristics
- The Paramedic: A True Health Professional
- Expanded Scope of Practice
Introduction

- EMS has made significant advances over the last 30 years
- The role of the paramedic has advanced accordingly
- The modern ambulance is truly a mobile emergency room
Introduction

- The paramedic is a highly trained health care professional
- Provides comprehensive, compassionate, and efficient prehospital emergency medical care
Description of the Profession
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- The primary task of a paramedic is to provide emergency medical services in an out-of-hospital setting.
- All paramedics must be licensed, registered, or otherwise credentialed.
Description of the Profession

- Roles and responsibilities encompass disciplines of health care, public health, and public safety.
EMS Professional

Click [here](#) to view a video on emergency medical technicians.
Description of the Profession

To function as a paramedic:

– Licensing or credentialing
  ★ Fulfilled requirements of licensing body
  ★ Register with area they work in

– Medical Direction

★ You must recognize that you are an essential component in the continuum of care
Description of the Profession

- Paramedics will continue to fill the well-defined and traditional role of 911 response.
- Emerging roles include public education, health promotion, and participation in illness prevention programs.
Description of the Profession

- Patient advocacy
- Paramedics are responsible to the system medical director, their employer, the public, and their peers

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Paramedic Characteristics
Paramedic Characteristics

As a paramedic you should:
- Have excellent judgment
- Be able to prioritize decisions
- Be a confident leader
- Be able to function independently
The Paramedic: A True Health Professional
Paramedic: A True Health Professional

- Emergency medical services are now recognized as an important part of the health care system.
- Paramedics are now highly respected members of the health care team.
  - Do not take professionalism for granted
  - Strive to maintain your professional status
Paramedic: A True Health Professional

- The completion of your initial paramedic course is the start of your professional education.
  - Continuing education
  - Ongoing skills practice
  - Peer-evaluation
  - Professional and community organizations
A major advance in professionalism was the 1998 EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum.

The 1998 DOT paramedic curriculum is the guideline for this textbook.
Paramedic: A True Health Professional

Need for research
- Little or no scientific data to support many of our prehospital practices

Adherence to a code of professional ethics and etiquette
- Ethics are standards of right or honorable behavior
- Etiquette refers to good manners
Expanded Scope of Practice
Expanded Scope of Practice

Paramedics are now stepping into non-traditional roles such as:
- Critical Care Transport
- Primary Care
- Industrial Medicine
- Sports Medicine
Critical Care Transport

- Specialization of health care facilities requires transport of patients
  - Includes specialized ground ambulances, fixed-wing aircraft, and helicopters
- Paramedics have been educated in various aspects of critical care medicine

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Primary Care

- Many patients receive primary care outside the hospital at far less cost.
- Paramedics, in close contact with medical direction, can provide care at the scene without transport to the hospital.
Industrial Medicine

- Paramedics are principal health care providers on oil rigs, movie sets, and similar industrial operations.
- Training is specific to the operation.
Sports Medicine

Paramedics in sports medicine deal with injuries specific to the sport in question. They assist in pregame training and provide emergency medical care during games.
Summary

- Description of the Profession
- Characteristics of a Paramedic
- The Paramedic: A True Health Professional
- Expanded Scope of Practice