

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE AMENDMENTS

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill authorizes the creation of community paramedicine programs.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ authorizes the creation of community paramedicine programs; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

26-8a-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 208, 237, and 265

ENACTS:

26-8a-212, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26-8a-102** is amended to read:

26-8a-102. Definitions.



28 As used in this chapter:

29 (1) (a) "911 ambulance or paramedic services" means:

30 (i) either:

31 (A) 911 ambulance service;

32 (B) 911 paramedic service; or

33 (C) both 911 ambulance and paramedic service; and

34 (ii) a response to a 911 call received by a designated dispatch center that receives 911
35 or E911 calls.

36 (b) "911 ambulance or paramedic services" does not mean a seven or ten digit
37 telephone call received directly by an ambulance provider licensed under this chapter.

38 (2) "Ambulance" means a ground, air, or water vehicle that:

39 (a) transports patients and is used to provide emergency medical services; and

40 (b) is required to obtain a permit under Section 26-8a-304 to operate in the state.

41 (3) "Ambulance provider" means an emergency medical service provider that:

42 (a) transports and provides emergency medical care to patients; and

43 (b) is required to obtain a license under Part 4, Ambulance and Paramedic Providers.

44 (4) (a) "Behavioral emergency services" means delivering a behavioral health
45 intervention to a patient in an emergency context within a scope and in accordance with
46 guidelines established by the department.

47 (b) "Behavioral emergency services" does not include engaging in the:

48 (i) practice of mental health therapy as defined in Section 58-60-102;

49 (ii) practice of psychology as defined in Section 58-61-102;

50 (iii) practice of clinical social work as defined in Section 58-60-202;

51 (iv) practice of certified social work as defined in Section 58-60-202;

52 (v) practice of marriage and family therapy as defined in Section 58-60-302; or

53 (vi) practice of clinical mental health counseling as defined in Section 58-60-402; and

54 (vii) practice as a substance use disorder counselor as defined in Section 58-60-502.

55 (5) "Committee" means the State Emergency Medical Services Committee created by
56 Section 26-1-7.

57 (6) "Community paramedicine" means medical care:

58 (a) provided by emergency medical service personnel; and

59 (b) provided to a patient who is not:

60 (i) in need of ambulance transportation; or

61 (ii) located in a health care facility as defined in Section 26-21-2.

62 [~~6~~] (7) "Direct medical observation" means in-person observation of a patient by a
63 physician, registered nurse, physician's assistant, or individual licensed under Section
64 26-8a-302.

65 [~~7~~] (8) "Emergency medical condition" means:

66 (a) a medical condition that manifests itself by symptoms of sufficient severity,
67 including severe pain, that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health
68 and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

69 (i) placing the individual's health in serious jeopardy;

70 (ii) serious impairment to bodily functions; or

71 (iii) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; or

72 (b) a medical condition that in the opinion of a physician or the physician's designee
73 requires direct medical observation during transport or may require the intervention of an
74 individual licensed under Section 26-8a-302 during transport.

75 [~~8~~] (9) (a) "Emergency medical service personnel" means an individual who provides
76 emergency medical services or behavioral emergency services to a patient and is required to be
77 licensed or certified under Section 26-8a-302.

78 (b) "Emergency medical service personnel" includes a paramedic, medical director of a
79 licensed emergency medical service provider, emergency medical service instructor, behavioral
80 emergency services technician, other categories established by the committee, and a certified
81 emergency medical dispatcher.

82 [~~9~~] (10) "Emergency medical service providers" means:

83 (a) licensed ambulance providers and paramedic providers;

84 (b) a facility or provider that is required to be designated under Subsection
85 26-8a-303(1)(a); and

86 (c) emergency medical service personnel.

87 [~~10~~] (11) "Emergency medical services" means:

88 (a) medical services;

89 (b) transportation services;

90 (c) behavioral emergency services; or
91 (d) any combination of the services described in Subsections ~~[(10)]~~ (11)(a) through (c).

92 ~~[(11)]~~ (12) "Emergency medical service vehicle" means a land, air, or water vehicle
93 that is:

94 (a) maintained and used for the transportation of emergency medical personnel,
95 equipment, and supplies to the scene of a medical emergency; and

96 (b) required to be permitted under Section 26-8a-304.

97 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) "Governing body":

98 (a) means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-42-102; and

99 (b) for purposes of a "special service district" under Section 11-42-102, means a
100 special service district that has been delegated the authority to select a provider under this
101 chapter by the special service district's legislative body or administrative control board.

102 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) "Interested party" means:

103 (a) a licensed or designated emergency medical services provider that provides
104 emergency medical services within or in an area that abuts an exclusive geographic service area
105 that is the subject of an application submitted pursuant to Part 4, Ambulance and Paramedic
106 Providers;

107 (b) any municipality, county, or fire district that lies within or abuts a geographic
108 service area that is the subject of an application submitted pursuant to Part 4, Ambulance and
109 Paramedic Providers; or

110 (c) the department when acting in the interest of the public.

111 ~~[(14)]~~ (15) "Medical control" means a person who provides medical supervision to an
112 emergency medical service provider.

113 ~~[(15)]~~ (16) "Non-911 service" means transport of a patient that is not 911 transport
114 under Subsection (1).

115 ~~[(16)]~~ (17) "Nonemergency secured behavioral health transport" means an entity that:

116 (a) provides nonemergency secure transportation services for an individual who:

117 (i) is not required to be transported by an ambulance under Section 26-8a-305; and

118 (ii) requires behavioral health observation during transport between any of the
119 following facilities:

120 (A) a licensed acute care hospital;

- 121 (B) an emergency patient receiving facility;
- 122 (C) a licensed mental health facility; and
- 123 (D) the office of a licensed health care provider; and
- 124 (b) is required to be designated under Section [26-8a-303](#).
- 125 ~~[(17)]~~ (18) "Paramedic provider" means an entity that:
- 126 (a) employs emergency medical service personnel; and
- 127 (b) is required to obtain a license under Part 4, Ambulance and Paramedic Providers.
- 128 ~~[(18)]~~ (19) "Patient" means an individual who, as the result of illness, injury, or a
- 129 behavioral emergency condition, meets any of the criteria in Section [26-8a-305](#).
- 130 ~~[(19)]~~ (20) "Political subdivision" means:
- 131 (a) a city, town, or metro township;
- 132 (b) a county;
- 133 (c) a special service district created under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service
- 134 District Act, for the purpose of providing fire protection services under Subsection
- 135 [17D-1-201\(9\)](#);
- 136 (d) a local district created under Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities
- 137 - Local Districts, for the purpose of providing fire protection, paramedic, and emergency
- 138 services;
- 139 (e) areas coming together as described in Subsection [26-8a-405.2\(2\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#); or
- 140 (f) an interlocal entity under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act.
- 141 ~~[(20)]~~ (21) "Trauma" means an injury requiring immediate medical or surgical
- 142 intervention.
- 143 ~~[(21)]~~ (22) "Trauma system" means a single, statewide system that:
- 144 (a) organizes and coordinates the delivery of trauma care within defined geographic
- 145 areas from the time of injury through transport and rehabilitative care; and
- 146 (b) is inclusive of all prehospital providers, hospitals, and rehabilitative facilities in
- 147 delivering care for trauma patients, regardless of severity.
- 148 ~~[(22)]~~ (23) "Triage" means the sorting of patients in terms of disposition, destination,
- 149 or priority. For prehospital trauma victims, triage requires a determination of injury severity to
- 150 assess the appropriate level of care according to established patient care protocols.
- 151 ~~[(23)]~~ (24) "Triage, treatment, transportation, and transfer guidelines" means written

152 procedures that:

153 (a) direct the care of patients; and

154 (b) are adopted by the medical staff of an emergency patient receiving facility, trauma
155 center, or an emergency medical service provider.

156 Section 2. Section **26-8a-212** is enacted to read:

157 **26-8a-212. Community paramedicine program.**

158 (1) A ground ambulance provider or a designated quick response provider, as
159 designated in accordance with Section 26-8a-303, may develop and implement a community
160 paramedicine program.

161 (2) (a) Before providing services, a community paramedicine program shall:

162 (i) implement training requirements as determined by the committee; and

163 (ii) submit a written community paramedicine operational plan to the department that
164 meets requirements established by the committee.

165 (b) A community paramedicine program shall report data, as determined by the
166 committee, related to community paramedicine to the department.

167 (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
168 committee shall make rules to implement this section.