



PRESS RELEASE

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The International Association of Flight Paramedics Release Critical Care Paramedic Position Statement

The IAFP Board of Directors today released a position statement recommending a national standard for critical care paramedics providing care in an expanded scope of practice. This standard includes valid and reliable national certification beyond that of the National Standard Curriculum.

Varied scopes of practice and competence of critical care paramedics across the United States necessitate this national standard as well as additional education and training. The paper cites several national organizational statements supporting the growing need for an advanced level of provider care for the critically ill or injured.

The IAFP has defined a standard of care toward which critical care paramedics must aspire in order to provide the highest quality and safety in patient care. "This paper will help establish the foundation of where critical care medicine begins," says IAFP President, Jim Riley. "Our Board of Directors is very in tune with the industry and has addressed the issue of a varied scope of practice for critical care paramedics."

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Since 1999, when the National Flight Paramedic Association (NFPA) [now the IAFP], developed the national standard for the Certified Flight Paramedic, and subsequently released a position paper on The Role of the Certified Flight Paramedic as a Critical Care Provider and the Required Education, the IAFP believes the role of the critical care paramedic has evolved beyond the air medical transport environment.

The IAFP position centers on eight content areas: education, certifications, knowledge, patient management, transport medicine, quality management and certification examination and proposes a pathway to certification as a critical care paramedic.

A complete position paper is available at
<http://www.flightparamedic.org/documents/CriticalCareParamedicPositionPaper.pdf>

The IAFP is dedicated to providing advocacy, leadership development and educational opportunities for critical care paramedics. We strive to strengthen and unite critical caregivers to enhance safe, efficient and quality patient care world wide.

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