

Submission

Invoice # 1902

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2024 CAASE Award Submission

CAASE Awards Submission

Submission Category:

Clinical Outcome Project

Submission Title:

Paramedic Expanded Scope

Contact Name:

Cindy McBride

Organization:

Medic Ambulance Service, Inc.

Email:**Preferred**

cmcbride@medicambulance.net

Address:**Organization****Phone:****Work Phone****Number of Annual Service Requests:**

135,000

Number of Ambulances:

135

Business Type (check all that apply):

Privately Held Corporation

Project Participants (Names, Job Titles & Email Addresses of individuals involved in the project):

Solano County EMS - Administrator Ben Gammon BGGammon@SolanoCounty.com , Medical Director Pranav Shetty ppshetty@ucdavis.edu, Jimmy Pierson President/COO - Medic Ambulance - jpierson@medicambulance.net, Brian Meader Regional Director - Operations - bmeader@medicambulance.net, Cindy McBride VP Quality - cmcbride@medicambulance.net, Billy White CQI Manager - wwwhite@medicambulance.net.

Situational Analysis (Background of Project):

Medic Ambulance is the exclusive provider of Advanced Life Support (ALS) and ALS Interfacility Transport (IFT) in Solano County. With this unique role, we have closely monitored and evaluated the types of patients being transferred and assessed the necessary level of service, equipment, and personnel required to complete these requests successfully. Over the years, both Solano County and Medic Ambulance have evolved with the advancements in EMS transport. In 2012, Solano County initiated the use of ALS-RN, a service level where patients requiring RN evaluation can receive appropriate care without the need for a more critical and expensive Critical Care RN. Since then, the need for medication drips during transport has increased, with ALS-RN requests totaling 948 in 2021 and 1,195 in 2023, marking a 25% increase. These patients are generally stable and often already under paramedic care before arriving at the hospital. However, as many EMS agencies know, recruiting RNs can be challenging, especially when competing with hospital salaries and schedules. Many RNs who transition to EMS have prior experience in the field, often as paramedics. In reviewing the transport needs, we found that a large majority of patients required 1 to 2 medication drips, including Normal Saline, blood products, and vasopressors. Some of these medications are within the paramedic scope when administered via a different route. Therefore, in 2022, in collaboration with our Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA), Solano County began evaluating the initiation of Paramedic Expanded Scope Skills. These specific interventions, part of the national scope of practice for paramedics, require approval from the State EMS Agency and our LEMSAs. With these additional skills, paramedics can transport patients with specific medications under the orders of the sending physician. This expanded scope allows for more resources to be utilized efficiently, reducing delays in transport. In addition to the expanded scope, the need for higher levels of oxygen administration, particularly for COVID-19 patients, led to the evaluation of high-flow nasal cannula devices, previously only available at the Critical Care Transport (CCT) level. Many patients required only the high-flow nasal cannula and cardiac monitoring for transport. As a result, Medic Ambulance brought this to the attention of our LEMSAs, which approved the training and use of the high-flow nasal cannula within our ALS scope of practice.

Project Goals:

The primary goal is to increase the availability of qualified personnel to safely, efficiently, and quickly transport patients who require IV medications and/or increased oxygen needs with a ventilator or high-flow nasal cannula device.

Planning & Implementation (describe process from the planning phase, including research, through implementation phase. Include the overall length of your project in weeks/months):

Solano County and Medic Ambulance began working on an expanded scope/critical care paramedic initiative in 2015. Through research and evaluation, we determined that the skill set needed for interfacility transport in Solano was already part of the national scope of practice for paramedics. We reviewed protocols from surrounding counties that had already implemented this scope and tailored the requirements to Solano County's needs. A draft of the policies was created, specifying the use of the following medications as continuous infusions: Heparin, Nitroglycerin, Magnesium

Sulfate, Blood Products, and Amiodarone. The policy also allowed paramedics to use a transport ventilator if other medications utilized were within the paramedic scope of practice. The protocols outlined the specific personnel required and the necessary training. The Solano County Medical Director presented these protocols and policies to the State in 2023, where they were approved for implementation. The protocol was released in March 2023, with a planned implementation in May 2023. Medic Ambulance worked closely with the county to review and approve our training program, ensuring our paramedics received the most appropriate in-class and hands-on training. Each paramedic was required to complete an in-person training session covering the specific medications outlined in the protocols and the equipment used for these transfers. Paramedics also participated in ride-along hours with ALS-RN units and CCT units to gain hands-on experience in their working environment. Paramedics were required to complete two 12-hour shifts with the RN units, managing at least three patients with ventilators and one patient with a pump. Due to the infrequency of ventilated patients, the training took longer than initially expected. Consequently, Solano County decided to enforce the policy in stages. As of April 2024, the first stage of IV drips went live for the paramedic expanded scope. The county also released an updated IFT form that included the expanded scope within the ALS level of service selection, making hospital staff more aware of the capabilities of Solano County paramedics. We continue to evaluate access to ventilated patients and our paramedics to ensure they can meet the requirements. We hope to implement the ventilator training later this year or early next year. In conjunction with the pump and ventilator training, paramedics were trained on the utilization and function of the high-flow nasal cannula device. Training began in November 2023, with hands-on and in-class sessions led by our education department, trained by the Airvo clinical management team. All supervisors were trained as superusers, providing 24-hour assistance during the deployment of the device. Additional hands-on refresher training was conducted during Quality Assurance weeks, where staff assembled and operated the device in scenario-based exercises.

Results (Did you achieve your goals? How did you measure results?):

As of November 2023, there have been 26 ALS transports utilizing the high-flow nasal cannula device. Previously, these calls would have required ALS RN or CCT, further impacting the system. With this new training, ALS has become a more readily available resource, enabling faster and safer patient transport with quality care. We look forward to a more detailed review as the utilization of ALS increases. In the four months since the expanded scope was implemented, the skill has been used 68 times. The average response time for these transports is 24 minutes, with an average scene time of 37 minutes. Three requests were within 30 minutes, with an average response time of 28 minutes, and 19 requests were within an hour, with an average response time of 24 minutes. All transports were successful, with no diversions or changes to the patient's condition. We look forward to further evaluating the impact of this expanded scope as utilization increases.

Impact (What impact has this project had on your service? Information can be given as narrative. However, if possible, please provide qualitative and quantitative information.):

The increased need for IV drip medication and higher caliber oxygen delivery devices for transport has highlighted the importance of having more resources capable of providing the same quality of care in a busy system. This has reduced delays at in-county hospitals. A testament to this success is reflected in our wall times. With patients being transferred out of hospitals more efficiently, beds are freed up, improving patient flow through the hospital and assisting the emergency room. Solano County's average wall time for EMS ranges between 20 to 25 minutes. We continue to educate, evaluate, and review the full impact of these implementations, but so far, we have observed only positive results and look forward to maintaining an efficient, quality-driven EMS system.

Budget (Did you have a budget? Budget numbers can be provided as a percentage of overall operating or departmental budget.):

\$100,000 for training of staff

Supporting Documents #1:

Solano Flyer.jpg

Supporting Documents #2:

Employee Appreciation Event @ Top Golf.pdf

Supporting Documents #3:

Supporting Documents #4:

Supporting Documents #5:

Supporting Documents #6:

Comments:

CAASE Awards Submission Fee:

CAASE Awards Submission - \$100.00

General Section

From: [Jimmy Pierson](#)
To: [Jimmy Pierson](#)
Cc: [Lisa Curlee](#); [Brian Meader](#)
Subject: Employee Appreciation Event @ Top Golf **** Date Clarification ***
Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024 9:47:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Sacramento Operations

Employee Appreciation Night

Saturday, February 17, 2024, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Please join us for a night of fun, food, golf, friendship, and appreciation at Top Golf Roseville!! There will be two events, with one on Saturday, February 17th, and the other Wednesday, February 21st, and will include 2 hours of unlimited gameplay, as well as BBQ Buffet and non-alcoholic drinks! It will be a fun night you won't want to miss. Can't wait to see you all there. We really appreciate all you do for Medic, our patients, and our community! You are a valued member of our family, and while I know we don't say thank you enough, we want you to know THANK YOU!!!

You and a guest are invited to attend! Please sign up for one of the days on Bookeo!

Bookeo Link: [EDUCATION | medicamb \(medicambulance.net\)](#)



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HONORING OUR PAST.



2024 EMS WEEK Solano Division



FORGING OUR FUTURE.

2024's National EMS Week Theme is "Honoring our Past, Forging our Future", an apt theme for Medic Ambulance as we celebrate our 45th Anniversary where we too are honoring our past as we look forward to forging our future with our stellar staff.

Solano Team: In appreciation of all of your hard work, we would like to invite you to join us for the festivities all week! Please see below calendar for a list of all the food events we are doing!

Monday

Morning:
Coffee and Donuts

Mid-day Treat: Its-It
Ice Cream Sandwiches

Dinner:
Maggie's Burgers

Tuesday

Morning:
Coffee and Donuts

Mid-day Treat: Churros

Dinner:
Maggie's Tacos

Wednesday

Morning:
Coffee and Donuts

Mid-day Treat: It's-It
Ice Cream Sandwiches

Dinner:
Chick-Fil-A

Breakfast available Station 1 and NCS, Dinner is served 1600-2000 at Station 1
To-Go boxes available by request for on-duty crews!

Thursday

Morning:
Coffee and Donuts

Mid-day Treat: Churros

Dinner:
Maggie's Tacos



Friday

Morning:
Coffee and Donuts

Mid-day Treat: Its-It
Ice Cream Sandwiches

Dinner:
Maggie's Burgers

EMS WEEK RAFFLE: All employees will be entered into a raffle! Winners will be selected at random and announced at the end of EMS Week! No need to sign up, no purchase necessary!