

ABSTRACT

*Comparison of levels of care provided for the majority of prehospital patients - AEMT vs. EMT-P.
A review of 786,403 patient records.*

Background: In January of 2009, the *National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards (The Standards)* were released, outlining the minimal terminal objectives for entry-level EMS personnel to achieve, within the parameters described in the *National EMS Scope of Practice Model*.

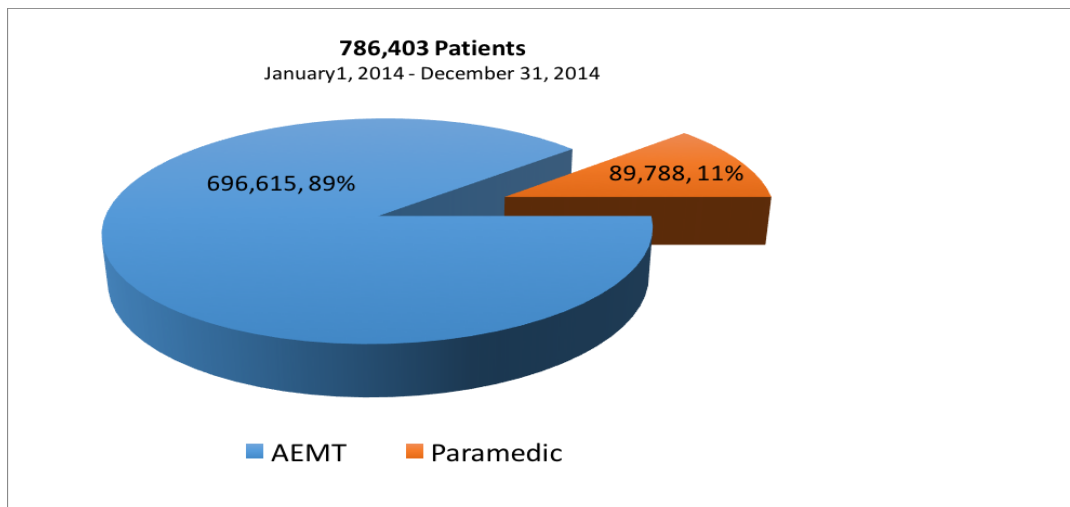
Objective: Based on “*The Standards*”, this study sought to determine what percentage of pre-hospital patients could be managed within the scope of practice of the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT).

Design/Methods: A total of 786,403 patient records were reviewed to determine the percentage of patients that could have been managed within the scope of the AEMT, based on Michigan EMS statewide protocols, which are consistent with *The Standards*. These patient records were submitted throughout 2014 by Michigan EMS transport agencies to Michigan’s EMS Information System (MiEMSIS) and were obtained by the author from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) – Division of EMS and Trauma. Interventions used to distinguish between the levels of care required – paramedic vs. AEMT – included airway procedures, vascular access techniques, and medications administered.

Results: Based exclusively on interventions performed, of the 786,403 patient records that were reviewed, 696,615 (89%) were within the scope of practice of the AEMT and 89,788 (11%) required care at the paramedic level. If the AEMT scope of practice were to include the administration of an antiemetic 91% of these patients could be managed by an AEMT.

Conclusion: Due to the expanded scope of practice of the AEMT described in the January 2009 *National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards*, areas with dwindling EMS resources may now have a partial solution to real or anticipated staffing crises.

Impact: EMS systems (underserved by paramedic pre-hospital response) that incorporate or expand the use of the AEMT scope of practice level, would have a positive impact on patient outcomes and patient/family satisfaction.



Within defined Scope of Practice - Figure 1

