

Job Description – Registered Nurse (RN)

Responsibilities:

Respond to emergency calls to provide efficient and immediate care to the critically ill and injured, and to transport the patient to a medical facility. After receiving the call from the dispatcher, the RN drives the ambulance to address or location given, using the most expeditious route, depending on traffic and weather conditions. The RN must observe traffic ordinances and regulations concerning emergency vehicle operation.

The RN:

- Functions in uncommon situations;
- Has a basic understanding of stress response and methods to ensure personal well-being;
- Has an understanding of body substance isolation;
- Understands basic medical-legal principles;
- Functions within the scope of care as defined by state, regional and local regulatory agencies;
- Complies with regulations on the handling of the deceased, notifies authorities and arranges for protection of property and evidence at the scene.

Upon arrival at the scene of crash or illness, the RN parks the ambulance in a safe location to avoid additional injury. Prior to initiating patient care, the RN will also "size-up" the scene to determine: that the scene is safe; the mechanism of injury or nature of illness; the total number of patients; and to request additional help, if necessary. In the absence of law enforcement, the RN creates a safe traffic environment, such as the placement of road flares, removal of debris and redirection of traffic for the protection of the injured and those assisting in the care of injured patients. The RN determines the nature and extent of illness or injury and establishes priority for required emergency care. The RN renders emergency medical and or trauma care, to adults, children and infants based on assessment findings. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Opening and maintaining an airway;
- Ventilating patients;
- Administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including use of automated external defibrillators;
- Providing prehospital emergency medical care of simple and multiple system trauma such as:
 - Controlling hemorrhage,
 - Treatment of shock (hypoperfusion),
 - Bandaging wounds,
 - Immobilization of painful, swollen, or deformed extremities,
 - immobilization of painful, swollen, or deformed neck or spine;
- providing emergency medical care to:
 - assist in emergency childbirth,
 - manage general medical complaints of altered mental status, respiratory, cardiac, diabetic, allergic reaction, seizures, poisoning behavioral emergencies, environmental

emergencies, and psychological crises. Additional care is provided based upon assessment of the patient and obtaining historical information.

- Searching for medical identification emblems as a guide to appropriate emergency medical care.
- Assisting patients with prescribed medications, including sublingual nitroglycerin, epinephrine autoinjectors and hand-held aerosol inhalers.
- Administration of oxygen, oral glucose, activated charcoal and other basic and advanced medications.
- Start and maintain IVs, administer IV medications as defined in the Walsh Ambulance Service Protocols
- Reassuring patients and bystanders by working in a confident, efficient manner.
- Avoiding mishandling and undue haste while working expeditiously to accomplish the task.

Where a patient must be extricated from entrapment, the RN assesses the extent of injury and gives all possible emergency care and protection to the entrapped patient and uses the prescribed techniques and appliances for safely removing the patient. If needed, the RN radios the dispatcher for additional help or special rescue and/or utility services. Provides simple rescue service if the ambulance has not been accompanied by a specialized unit. After extrication, provides additional care in triaging the injured in accordance with standard emergency procedures.

The RN is responsible for:

- Lifting the stretcher (be able to lift and carry 125 pounds),
- Placing it in the ambulance and seeing that the patient and stretcher are secured
- Continuing emergency medical care while enroute to the medical facility.

The RN uses the knowledge of the condition of the patient and the extent of injuries and the relative locations and staffing of emergency hospital facilities to determine the most appropriate facility to which the patient will be transported, unless otherwise directed by medical direction. The RN reports directly to the emergency department or communications center the nature and extent of injuries, the number being transported and the destination to assure prompt medical care on arrival. The RN identifies assessment findings, which may require communications with medical control, for advice and for notification that special professional services and assistance be immediately available upon arrival at the medical facility.

The RN:

- Constantly assesses the patient enroute to the emergency facility, administers additional care as indicated or directed by medical control,
- Assists in lifting and carrying the patient out of the ambulance and into the receiving medical facility

- Reports verbally and in writing, their observation and emergency medical care of the patient at the emergency scene and in transit, to the receiving medical facility staff for purposes of records and diagnostics
- Upon request provides assistance to the receiving medical facility staff.

After each call, the RN

- Restocks and replaces used linens, blankets and other supplies,
- Cleans all equipment following appropriate disinfecting procedures,
- Makes careful check of all equipment so that the ambulance is ready for the next run
- Maintains ambulance in efficient operating condition
- Ensures that the ambulance is clean and washed and kept in a neat orderly condition
- In accordance with local, state or federal regulations, decontaminates the interior of the vehicle after transport of patient with contagious infection or hazardous materials exposure.

Additionally the RN:

- Determines that vehicle is in proper mechanical condition by checking items required by service management. Maintains familiarity with specialized equipment used by the service
- Attends continuing education and refresher training programs as required by employers, medical control, licensing or certifying agencies.
- Maintains Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification

Reporting:

The RN will report to the Captain of the area of responsibility to which the RN is assigned. Ultimately the RN reports to and works under the direction of the EMS Chief. The RN will work on scene independently and may supervise other care providers.

Qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Complete and successfully pass a background check
- Complete and successfully pass a driving history check
- Professional rescuer level CPR
- Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies Licensed Registered Nurse License in good standing.
- Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) Preferred
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certification
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) is preferred
- A valid driver's license

Physical Requirements:

Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by having to walk, stand, lift, carry and balance at times, in excess of 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because of uneven terrain, the patient's and RN's wellbeing, as well as other workers' wellbeing must not be jeopardized.

EEOC/ADA:

The Walsh Ambulance Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.