



International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics

www.I-CAPP.org

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Emergency Medical Services
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Attention: NEMSAC Subcommittee on Adaptability and Innovation
Re: Designation of Graduate-Prepared Paramedics as Federally Recognized Practitioners

The International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics (I-CAPP) strongly supports establishing and recognizing a Graduate-Prepared Paramedic Practitioner role within the United States. Over the years, our organization has been an active observer and advocate for advancements in the paramedic profession globally. Having witnessed the success of similar roles in various nations, we believe that implementing a Graduate-Prepared Paramedic Practitioner in the U.S. would greatly benefit not only the paramedic profession but the wider healthcare system as a whole.

Outlined below are some of the compelling reasons to support this advancement:

1. **Bridging the Healthcare Gap:** Given the continuous challenges faced by rural and underserved communities in accessing timely medical care, the Paramedic Practitioner could serve as a crucial bridge, delivering advanced medical care to those who need it most.
2. **Elevating the Paramedic Profession:** Recognizing and introducing a Graduate-Prepared Paramedic Practitioner would signify a step forward in professionalizing the paramedic discipline further. This can enhance career progression opportunities and ensure that paramedics are seen as integral components of the healthcare continuum.
3. **Addressing Emergency Department Overcrowding:** By equipping paramedics with advanced clinical decision-making skills, Paramedic Practitioners can treat patients in situ or redirect them to the most appropriate care settings, thereby reducing unnecessary Emergency Department visits.
4. **Strengthening Integrated Care:** As healthcare moves towards a more holistic and integrated model, Paramedic Practitioners can act as pivotal players in liaising between acute, primary, and community care settings.
5. **Enhanced Patient Outcomes:** Advanced clinical training ensures that Paramedic Practitioners are equipped to provide evidence-based care, potentially leading to better patient outcomes and experiences.
6. **Supporting the Aging Population:** As the U.S. faces an increasing aging population, there will be a growing demand for geriatric care. Paramedic Practitioners, with specialized training, can provide essential services tailored to the unique needs of older adults.
7. **Continual Professional Development:** The pursuit of a Graduate-Prepared qualification inherently emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning, research, and evidence-based practice. This culture of continual development can influence and elevate the standards across the paramedic profession.

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We firmly believe that the Paramedic Practitioner role would serve as a testament to the adaptability, evolution, and essential nature of the paramedic profession. We hope that stakeholders in the U.S. healthcare system recognize the myriad benefits this role could offer and act promptly to implement this valuable advancement.

The International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics stands ready to collaborate, provide insights, and share best practices from other nations to ensure the successful realization of this initiative in the United States.

Respectfully,
Board of Directors,
International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics

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