

Camp Healthcare Providers: A Comparison of Selected Characteristics

Updated 2018 (Author: Linda E. Erceg)

NOTE: CHART INFORMATION IS MEANT ONLY AS A GUIDE; STATE REGULATIONS SUPERSEDE CHART INFORMATION.

TITLE of PROVIDER	CONDITIONS that IMPACT ABILITY to PRACTICE at CAMP	PRIMARY SKILL based on EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	ABILITY to DIAGNOSE & PRESCRIBE MEDICATION	ABILITY to HANDLE EMERGENCIES	SKILL with INDIVIDUAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS	EQUIPMENT NEEDED to FUNCTION in ROLE
PHYSICIAN (MD)	Must be licensed to practice in the state. Works autonomously in medical role.	Diagnosis & treatment of injury & illness.	Priority skill; ability to diagnosis & treat at camp may be limited by lack of access to lab and other supporting services.	Varies; depends on person's experience in camp's pre-hospital setting and camp's limited equipment.	Well-skilled in individual needs related to injury or illness. Ability in psycho-social & community health domains vary.	Varies. Access to lab, x-ray, & other routine items; strong physical assessment skill.
PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT (PA)	Must be credentialed by state in which camp is located; check State regs for limits of practice.	Assists MD with diagnosis and treatment of selected injuries & illness. Must work under direction of MD.	Skill generally limited to common injuries & illness per directives of supervising MD.	Generally limited since training focuses on clinic setting, not EMS.	Works best with individual needs related to injury or illness. Varied ability in community health.	Varies: some access to lab & x-ray. Physical assessment skill varies with experience.
NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP) Note: NPs are also RNs.	Varies. Some states limit the scope of practice. Check state regs. Also licensed as RN.	Diagnosis & treatment of both injuries & illnesses as well as people's response to health issues; combines RN & PA abilities.	Varies based on experience, credential and State regulations. Does have prescriptive authority.	Generally limited unless NP has pre-hospital, field experience.	Skill in individual needs including psycho-social. Community skills vary based on practitioner's education.	Varies: some access to lab & x-ray. Physical assessment skill varies with experience.
REGISTERED NURSE (RN)	Must be licensed by the state in which the camp is located or under the Nursing Compact. Works autonomously in nursing role.	Diagnosis & treat people's responses to health issues, actual or potential.	Provides nursing diagnosis. Does not prescribe meds; gives meds per prescriber direction. May guide treatments.	Generally limited unless RN has pre-hospital, ER, or field experience.	Skilled in meeting individual needs including psycho-social. Community skills if educated at BSN level.	Equipment need is usually minimal & of a general nature. Physical assessment skill varies with experience & education.
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN or LVN)	Must be licensed by state in which camp is located. Supervision required; state regs define required oversight.	Assists with care of ill or injured under supervision of RN, NP, and/or MD (state defined).	Limited; gives medication under orders of prescriber or as delegated by supervising RN who is following prescriber orders.	Very limited; works under direction of RN, NP, or MD.	Skill in individual needs but limited psycho-social skills. Not skilled in community health.	Equipment need is usually minimal & of a general nature. Minimal assessment skill.
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) Also W-EMT	Varies by state.	Responds to emergency situations; this is their domain!	Recognizes emergency situations; does not prescribe or diagnose.	Emergency response is a primary skill. More training needed for wilderness setting.	Focused on individual needs related to crisis. Limited community health skill.	Uses equipment common to emergency work (e.g. ambulance supplies).
FIRST AIDER Also WFA/WFR	"Duty to act" by virtue of being camp employee.	Responds to life-threatening situations.	Recognizes life-threatening crises; does not prescribe.	Limited to scope of training & experience.	Individual needs related to life-support; no community skills.	"Makes do" with items in the area.

