

Dynamic Cardiology Instructions to Skill Examiners

Thank you for serving as a Skill Examiner at today's examination. Please take a few moments to review the instructions for your station.

Skill Examiner Responsibilities

- Act in a professional and unbiased manner toward everyone involved in the exam, including candidates.
- Limit conversation with candidates to instructions and answering exam-related questions.
- Do not behave in a way that is discriminatory or perceived as harassment, and immediately report all instances of discrimination or harassment to the Regional EMS Consultant.
- Maintain control of your scenario.
 - Familiarize yourself with the details of the scenario.
 - Brief simulated patients and assistants.
 - Make sure all equipment is functional.
- Be sure that all exam materials always remain in a secure place.
- Return all exam materials to the Regional EMS Consultant.
 - Include all notes taken by the candidate.
- Thoroughly document justification for the candidate's score, especially if any Critical Criteria are identified.
- Do not give verbal or physical cues to the candidate to indicate their performance at your station. Remain neutral and objective in your conduct.

Skill Examiner Key Points

- Candidates are expected to choose equipment and medications based on current evidence-based guidelines and the national scope of practice for the Paramedic level.
- The perceived chronological order in which a candidate performs each step for a skill is only important if performing steps out of order would cause harm.
- Reasonable equipment substitutions are acceptable. Direct any questions regarding equipment substitutions to the Regional EMS Consultant.
- Report all equipment failures immediately to the Regional EMS Consultant, and promptly replace defective equipment.

Equipment List

Dynamic Cardiology

- The candidate will be required to interpret and verbally treat four arrhythmias according to current Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines.
- There is a maximum time limit of eight minutes.
- Evaluate the candidate's ability to deliver sequential care based on the prepared patient presentations.
- The manikin must be on the floor.
- All electrical interventions must physically be performed on the monitor or monitor simulator.
- Ensure that candidates perform electrical interventions at their lowest energy setting but verbalize the actual dose they would administer. (Does not apply if using cardiac monitor simulator)
- Do not change the order of the listed rhythms or substitute a new rhythm that is not specifically listed in the scenario.
- This station progresses through the arrhythmias in sequential order, regardless of whether appropriate treatment was administered.
- Give clear information. Do not be misleading.
- Candidates may print a rhythm strip, but all strips must be collected and retained with the examination records.

Equipment List

This skill should be performed in a quiet, isolated room with a desk or table and two comfortable chairs. Do not open these skills for testing until the Regional EMS Consultant has inspected your station. The following equipment must also be available, and you must ensure that it is working adequately throughout the examination:

For All Candidates:

- Personal protective equipment
- Monitor/defibrillator with freshly charged and spare batteries*
- OR
- Monitor/defibrillator simulator capable of producing various ECG waveforms, simulated 12-lead ECG printouts, pulse oximetry readings and waveforms, EtCO₂ readings and waveforms, respiratory rates, and heart rates and appropriate alarms.
- Arrhythmia generator compatible with manikin and monitor/defibrillator*
- CPR manikin that can be defibrillated
- ECG paper for Paramedic candidates*
- Conductive medium (gel, pads, etc.)*

***items noted with an asterisk are not required if using the Monitor/Defibrillator simulator**

Read the following instructions to all Paramedic candidates:

Instructions to the Psychomotor Skills Candidate Dynamic Cardiology Skill Station

Welcome to the Dynamic Cardiology skill station. This skill is designed to evaluate your ability to recognize and treat cardiac arrhythmias according to current Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines and algorithms. In this part, you will be evaluated utilizing the defibrillation manikin and ECG monitor/defibrillator. Four separate arrhythmias will be presented to you. You must act as the team leader and voice your interpretation of each arrhythmia and the related treatments. You must physically demonstrate and perform all electrical interventions necessary throughout this skill. For safety reasons, please leave the defibrillator turned down to its lowest energy setting and verbally state the energy level you would be delivering to the patient. The patient's response to your interventions in these scenarios is scripted and does not reflect your performance. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the equipment before we begin. I will be happy to explain any of the specific operational features of the monitor/defibrillator if you have questions.

[Allow the candidate to review the equipment if they choose to do so, then continue reading the following:]

You will have eight minutes to complete this skill once we begin. I may ask questions for clarification and will acknowledge the verbal treatments you indicate are necessary. Do you have any questions?

[Refer to the information provided on the Dynamic Cardiology scenario.]