

## Ground vs. Air General Differences

Helicopter	Ground Ambulance
<b>Personnel attending patient</b>	
Registered Nurse and a paramedic (occasionally 2 nurses)	One Paramedic
<b>Specialized equipment</b>	
EKG	EKG
Pulse ox	Pulse ox
Capnography	Capnography
Fetal heart monitor	
IV pump	
Portable ventilator	
Monitoring of ICP bolts, CVP, Art lines, Swan-Ganz, and chest tubes	
Temperature device	
<b>Nurse training minimums</b>	<b>Paramedic training minimums</b>
At least 2 years in-hospital critical care (ICU, CCU, ED)	No previous EMS experience required
One nurse has extensive L&D experience (Lou)	Texas and Arkansas paramedic license
At least a 2 year nursing degree	ACLS and BCLS certified
Nursing license in Texas, Arkansas, or compact state	PEPP & ITLS
Texas or Arkansas EMT or paramedic license	
ACLS and BCLS certified	
Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) AND/OR PEPP	
TNCC or Trauma Life Support (ITLS)	
<b>Flight Paramedic training minimums</b>	
At least 2 years field experience	
Texas and Arkansas paramedic license	
Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS)	
Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)	
ACLS and BCLS certified	
<b>Cardiac</b>	
Defibrillation	Defibrillation
External Pacing (TCP)	External Pacing (TCP)
Transvenous pacer monitoring	Synchronized cardioversion
Synchronized cardioversion	
<b>Airway Control and Oxygenation</b>	
Rapid sequence induction	Bag valve mask
Bag valve mask	Dual-lumen alternative airway
Dual-lumen alternative airway	Endotracheal intubation
Endotracheal intubation	Oxygen administration
Oxygen administration	Pulse oximeter monitoring
Pulse oximeter monitoring	Suctioning
Suctioning	Chest Decompression
Chest Decompression	Cricothyrotomy
Ventilator management / CPAP	CPAP
Cricothyrotomy	

<b>Venous Access</b>	
Intraosseous pediatric and adult	Intraosseous pediatric and adult
Intravenous	Intravenous
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Dextrose evaluation	Dextrose evaluation
NG / Stomach lavage	NG / Stomach lavage
Spinal Immobilization	Spinal Immobilization
Splinting	Splinting
<b>Medications</b>	
<b>Helicopter</b>	<b>Ground Ambulance</b>
*Aeromedical has same meds as ground plus the following:	Adenosine
Dobutamine	Amiodarone
Neosynephrine Infusion	Aspirin (Baby)
Nipride	Atropine
Nitroglycerin infusion	Benadryl
Norcuron	Calcium Chloride 10%
Phenergan	Dextrose 5% Water (D5W)
Pitocin	Dextrose 50%
Romazicon	Dopamine Infusion
Succinylcholine	Epinephrine 1:10,000
Lopressor	Epinephrine 1:1000 single dose
Etomidate	Epinephrine 1:1000 Multi-dose
	Fentanyl
	Instant Glucose
	Lasix
	Lidocaine Injection
	Magnesium Sulfate 50%
	Morphine Sulfate
	Narcan
	NTG Spray
	Normal Saline Bag
	Normal Saline Flush
	Sodium Bicarb 8.4%
	Solu-medrol
	Versed
	Xopenex
	Zofran
<b>Comfort and ride</b>	
Very smooth and comfortable	Depends on road conditions and construction Long duration on skinny mattress tends to increase discomfort level of certain patients.
<b>Availability</b>	
Generally available, but may depend on weather conditions, FAA restrictions (rare), and maintenance	Generally available, but may be delayed due to primary 911 service area coverage.

**Effective Date 3/5/2010**