

Knowing the quality and type of your assets during any incident is necessary. When an incident commander calls for a “medic” it is important to know exactly what knowledge and experience that professional brings to the team. A board-certified tactical paramedic has a defined skill set that has been validated through a rigorous examination process. “Medic” is more than just a name.

Specialty certification is a voluntary credentialing process designed to validate essential knowledge and judgment required for safe and competent practice. Specialty certification is not a substitute for entry-level certification and licensure, but a tool to validate additional knowledge and dovetail with existing systems to create a universally recognized means for medical professionals, employers and the public to understand how paramedics holding a specialty certification provide care that is beyond that of an entry-level paramedic.

Appropriate regulation of specialized practice has developed over nearly two centuries in medicine, nursing and other allied health professions. In today’s complex healthcare system, providers are engaged in specialized practice areas that require substantial additional knowledge and experience beyond what can be expected from an entry-level practitioner. The historical evolution of paramedicine has created a situation in which specialized practice is demanded by advances in the science of medicine.

The International Board of Specialty Certification is an organized and functional specialty board with a mission to support all EMS subspecialties, everywhere in the world. IBSC is the only organization offering a psychometrically valid and legally defensible framework for specialty certification. IBSC answers the question of how to quantify competency in a specialty area like tactical medicine with the Tactical Responder (TR-C) and the Tactical Paramedic (TP-C) Certifications.

The expectation for the TR-C exam candidate is competency in casualty assessment, stabilization, and evacuation in hostile and austere environments in a non-paramedic function; as well as thorough familiarity with tactical principles, triage, and operational medicine. TR-C candidates are operators functioning within a team and commonly have a primary law enforcement role with a secondary medic role. The Certified Tactical Paramedic (TP-C) Examination is focused on the knowledge level of accomplished, tactical paramedics in hostile and austere environments.

Items included in the certification process for both TR-C and TP-C focus on decreasing preventable deaths at the point of wounding and are aligned with the three definitive phases of TECC/TCCC care. The questions on the examination are based on sound paramedicine and tactical principles found in TECC, TCCC and endorsed by C-TECC.