

Review of: "Marine Medical Response: Exploring the Training, Role and Scope of Paramedics and Paramedicine (ETRSp)"

Nathan Conradie¹

¹ Higher Colleges of Technology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for allowing me to review this article. It was a good read and I am glad that I get to share some of my insights as a review.

In general, I found this article compelling and well-written. The article presents a good argument for the establishment of a more regulated Diver Medical Technicians (DMT). On the whole, I agree with the author that emergency care providers have flourished in specialized roles and DMT could be extremely beneficial in specific healthcare settings.

With this being said, here are a few points I would like to make about the validity and reliability of the article that the author may want to consider.

Purpose: the article claims to be a summary of literature in the field of marine medicine. There is references to the search technique, the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and other elements that would suggest that this is a summary of the latest literature on the topic. However, there is no mention of how many articles were obtained during the search, or how many were excluded, or the nature of the literature. This leaves me as a reader a bit unclear of how evidence-based the conclusions that have been drawn from the literature review are.

It is my opinion, that the author is trying to make the point that DMTs are a valid specialty within the prehospital setting. Which I think may be a valid conclusion to draw. However, the presentation of this conclusion as a summary of literature has not been demonstrated here. I think this article would have been better presented as a letter to an editor and not as a literature review.

Conclusion: to the substance of the conclusion of the article. Although I see a specific environment that may benefit from a DMT. I do not see the need for a specialization in this field in all healthcare settings. The authors reference to specific skills and procedures potentially performed by DMTs, which gives a clear outline for what could be performed by DMT. This is additional to what an advanced practitioner would be able to perform. Note, when I refer to advanced practitioners, I am referring globally to the most qualified prehospital providers. Of all the skills and procedures potentially performed by DMTs in the article, I do not see any that an advanced practitioner could not perform, or already have specific training related to during the obtainments of their qualification. With the exception of anti-venom for marine bites. But I would argue that the practicality of an DMT being able to administer a specific anti—venom in the field would be difficult to get

right.

To be clear, I agree with the author that more specialized training is a good thing. However, I am not sure if there is enough additional content in this specific field of prehospital that would warrant the creation of a new qualification, with a related scope of practice. I could see a need for specialized training for those advanced practitioners that are working in this field. Something like a short course that does not change the scope of practice. A short course would be a lot easier to establish would not require a regulator to approve a change to a scope of practice.

Please note, I am generalizing, there may be some healthcare settings where this qualification may be necessary and greatly improve patient outcomes.

Summary: I think this article provides great insights into a field of prehospital medicine that is not extensively researched. As a first step to identifying a potential pitfall in prehospital training and potential lack of formalized qualification, I see this as a valid article. I would say the next step is to create a curriculum and a regulatory framework for this new qualification. Which I am sure the author is potentially working on.