

Chapter 1: Introduction to Emergency Medical Care

The Emergency Medical System

How It Began

EMS began as early as then 1790's when wounded soldiers were taken from the scene, to be attended by a physician.

Many civilian medical advances have been derived from battlefield tactics.

Maritime ambulance services began in the 1900's, and benefits of emergency pre-hospital care was quickly recognized.

EMS Today

In 1966 The National Highway Safety Act forced the Department of Transportation to standardize the quality of Emergency care.

1970 the National Registry was founded to establish professional standards.

The EMT of today is more equipped to handle pre-hospital care than the ambulance attendants of old.

Components of The EMS System

From the Patients perspective care begins when help is summoned. Once Notified the Emergency Medical Dispatcher will send available responders (first responder, EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P) The Ambulance will transport the patient to the hospitals. In the hospitals Emergency Department the patient receives laboratory tests, diagnosis, and further treatment.

Some hospitals have specialty services that set them apart from other hospitals.

As an EMT you will become familiar with the hospital resources available in your area.

Accessing the EMS System

Most places have a 911 system, where a dispatcher takes the call and notifies EMS, Fire and police agencies as necessary.

All Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMD) are specially trained to obtain important information, and give basic medical instructions.

Levels of EMS Training

Four Levels of Responder-**First Responder** (Emergency Medical Responder) : Often first on the scene like Fire and Police departments. Trained to activate the EMS system and provide immediate care for life-threatening injuries and scene control.-**EMT-Basic**: Minimum level certification for ambulance personnel. Trained in the assessment and care of the sick and injured patient.-**EMT-Intermediate** (Advanced EMT): Passed some additional training as to allow the administration of some medications, advanced airway techniques, IV administration. Can deal effectively with shock.-**EMT-Paramedic**: Invasive field care, end tracheal tubes, IV's, Administration of a variety of medications, electrocardiogram interpretations, ect.

Roles and Responsibilities of the EMT

EMT's are responsible for a wide range of activities:-Personal Safety: 1-Safety of the

crew, patient and bystanders: in this order-patient assessment: An accurate and thorough assessment is crucial.-patient care: its your job.-lifting and moving: many patients are un-ambulatory-transport: To the hospital and interfacility transports.-transfer of care: To someone of equal or higher training.-patient advocacy: Your responsibility to address your patients needs.

You may also be involved in injury prevention.

Traits of a Good EMT

Physical Traits

EMT's must be in good physical shape to carry out their strenuous duties.

You should be able to lift and carry up to 125lbs.

Have good eye sight, if you wear corrective lenses make sure you have them at all times.

Be able to communicate efficiently orally, and in writing.

Personal Traits:

Be pleasant

Sincere

Cooperative

Resourceful

A self-starter

Emotionally stable

A leader

Neat and clean

respectful and of good moral character

In control of personal habits

A capable communicator

Non-judgmental and fair.

Education

As technology and technique progress so should you, through refresher courses and **continuing education** .

Where will you Become a Provider?

There are many paid and volunteer outlets to use and improve your EMT skills.

National registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

NREMT

To establish and maintain national standards .

Obtained by successfully completing a NREMT practical and computer-based knowledge examination.

Quality improvement

Quality improvement consists of continuous self-review with the purpose improvement, to ensure the public receives the highest quality of care.-Keep carefully written documentation-Become involved in the quality improvement process-Obtain feedback from patients and the hospital staff-Maintain you equipment-Continue your education Another way to look at quality improvement is to provide care for you patients of a quality you would expect preformed on you.

Medical Direction

Medical Director a physician who assumes ultimate responsibility

Medical Direction oversight of patient care aspects of EMS (held by Medical Director)

Protocols steps for assessments and interventions

Standing Orders policies and protocols that are authorized by the medical director for EMT and other care providers to preform particular skills in certain situations. Written or standing orders are also called **off-line medical direction**. **On-line medical direction comes directly from the on-duty physician to the EMT.**

Vocab

Designated agent

Medical direction

Off-line medical direction

On-line medical direction

Medical directory

911 system

Protocols

Quality improvement

Standing orders