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QUESTION 1

What are the rules or standards that govern the conduct of EMS professionals?

- A. Codes
- B. Ethics
- C. Standards
- D. Morals

Correct Answer: B

Ethics are rules or standards that govern professional conduct, whereas morals are the individual's perceptions of what is right and wrong. Neither standards nor codes are terms applicable to the concept of the question.

QUESTION 2

What is the first thing you should do after receiving orders from the medical direction physician?

- A. Carry out the orders immediately.
- B. Repeat the orders exactly as you heard them.
- C. Question anything you did not understand.
- D. Document the orders in your report.

Correct Answer: B

To avoid misunderstanding, always repeat medical orders exactly as you heard them. Once you have done that, you can question any order you do not understand or about which you are unclear. When you complete your written patient care report, you should include the order in your report.

QUESTION 3

Which statement about disposable gloves is correct?

- A. You should remove gloves by grasping the ends of the fingers and pulling them off right side out.
- B. It is not necessary to wear gloves when suctioning or ventilating a patient with a bag-valve-mask device.
- C. Gloves protect both you and the patient from the transmission of infectious diseases.
- D. One pair of gloves is sufficient for any call, no matter how many patients there are.

Correct Answer: C

Because gloves protect both you and your patients, most protocols now call for EMTs to wear gloves for any patient contact. Remove gloves by pulling them off inside out, so you do not touch the soiled outer surface; change gloves for

each new patient contact.

QUESTION 4

Your trauma patient has her left hand caught between rollers on a conveyor belt, extrication takes 30 minutes. Evaluation of the injury during extrication showed delayed capillary refill distal to the injury. Post extrication shows rapid capillary refill distal to the injury deformity mid palm no obvious fractures, no lacerations and minor swelling noted. Knowing that crush injuries can cause all kinds of problems which is not considered a crush injury complication?

- A. Compression of tissues
- B. Fractures
- C. No injury at all
- D. Compartment syndrome

Correct Answer: C

Crush injuries occur when tissue is caught between two objects causing increased pressure. When this pressure is exerted over a long period of time tissues are damaged including lacerations, fractures and anarobic injuries. When blood flow is cut off and there is no oxygen does not make it to the tissues those tissues will revert to anarobic metabolism generating lactic and piruvic acids. In time this damages more tissues releasing more acids and by products of incomplete metabolism, eventually causing more swelling and coagulation problems, loss of tissue and loss of life.

QUESTION 5

As the head of the Quality Assurance Committee for your service, you review all patient care reports prior to passing them on to the medical director. On one trip sheet, you note the following narrative: Patient states that he cannot move his bowls and has had abdominal pane for three weaks. Patient also states that he has had a fever and took too Tylenol tablets this morming, but then became naseated. What advice would you give the paramedic regarding this report?

- A. Have the EMT-B do all of the documenting.
- B. Make up abbreviations for any words he is unsure of how to spell.
- C. Only document what you know how to spell.
- D. Get a dictionary and look up any questionable words when documenting.

Correct Answer: D

Proper spelling is critical to prehospital documentation. Documentation containing spelling mistakes looks unprofessional and can cast doubt on the quality of care provided. Therefore, it is best to advise the paramedic to use a dictionary and look up any and all words that he is unsure of how to spell. Having the EMT-Basic document the advanced level care is inappropriate. However, it would not be inappropriate to have the EMT read over the documentation to point out spelling errors. Making up abbreviations for words the paramedic is unsure of how to spell can create additional confusion and is not considered good practice. Just documenting the aspects of patient care for which the paramedic is comfortable with spelling creates incomplete documentation and is likewise inappropriate.

QUESTION 6

You are called to a local industrial complex for a potential hazardous materials incident. The dispatcher reports to you that approximately 30 workers have been affected and that several workers have been overcome by fumes. The specialized hazardous materials response team has been dispatched but will arrive approximately 20 minutes after your ambulance. Upon arrival, you are met at the gate by a worker who points to a large white tank next to the building which is the apparent source of the contamination. On the side of the tank you see a multi-colored NFPA 704 symbol with a number four (4) located within the blue diamond, a number one (1) located within the red diamond, a number one (1) located within the yellow diamond, and no indicator located within the white diamond. You are immediately approached by a crowd of approximately fifteen workers who state that they were exposed to fluid which was leaking from the tank. What is your next immediate action?

- A. Begin to triage the patients and obtain baseline vital signs
- B. Mix a weak bleach solution and tell the victims to use it to decontaminate their exposed skin
- C. Have the patients remove their clothing and begin to rinse them with water
- D. Ask the patients to remain in a single location until the hazardous materials team arrives

Correct Answer: C

Based upon the fact that the substance involved has already been identified as posing a significant health hazard, time cannot be wasted prior to initiation of field expedient gross decontamination. The universal decontaminating solution is water, and no time should be wasted in beginning to rinse any potential contamination away with it. Removal of the outer layer of clothing will immediately reduce the level of contamination on the victims. It is unreasonable to expect that the victims will wait for the hazardous materials team to arrive and begin decontamination. At no time should EMS personnel jeopardize their own safety by performing physical assessment or obtaining vital signs from potentially contaminated victims. Although weakened bleach solutions are sometimes used for decontamination, water is the best choice when the exact contaminating agent is unknown.

QUESTION 7

En route to the hospital, you intubate the patient. During your assessment of tube placement, you hear wheezing in the upper lung fields. What is most likely causing this wheezing?

- A. Inhalation injury to the upper airway
- B. Inhalation induced cardiac wheezing
- C. Inhalation induced asthma attack
- D. Inhalation injury to the lower airway

Correct Answer: A

An inhalation injury inferior to the glottis can result in wheezing and bronchospasm. An inhalation injury superior to the glottis can cause a hoarse voice and stridor. Inhalation of the byproducts of combustion can cause wheezing but this would still be classified as an inhalation injury to the lower airway.

QUESTION 8

You are transporting an elderly male patient in respiratory distress with a history of COPD...

The patient has very shallow, rapid respirations with minimal chest wall motion and slight wheezing in the upper lung fields. Given this situation, what would you expect the arterial carbon dioxide levels to be?

- A. Not enough information to determine
- B. Normal
- C. Lowered
- D. Elevated

Correct Answer: C

The patient would be hypercapnic as he is probably only ventilating dead space. The patient is not breathing deep enough for air exchange to occur in the alveoli, hence the elevated levels of carbon dioxide.

QUESTION 9

Your patient is a known diabetic who takes up to four insulin injections a day. Today he is found unresponsive, diaphoretic, tachycardic and breathing 18 times a minute. What is likely the patients chief complain?

- A. Hypoglycemia
- B. Hyperglycemia
- C. CVA D. Hypertensive crisis

Correct Answer: A

A known insulin dependant diabetic with the above symptoms is most likely hypoglycemia. The tachycardia and diaphoresis is from a catecholamine release trying to mobilize more glucose. This patient may very well have hypertension it just is not the reason for the unresponsiveness.

QUESTION 10

This practice of protecting yourself and your patient from the transfer of bodily fluids is known as what

- A. Wearing Gloves
- B. Body Substance Isolation
- C. Universal Precautions
- D. Being Safe

Correct Answer: B

Body substance isolation is a practice of isolating all body substances (blood, urine, feces, tears, etc.) of individuals undergoing medical treatment, particularly emergency medical treatment of those who might be infected with illnesses such as HIV, or hepatitis so as to reduce as much as possible the chances of transmitting these illnesses

QUESTION 11

You are transporting a patient that is having night sweats, mild fever, and a productive cough. He states that the health department has been treating him at home for a respiratory condition. How should the patient be transported to the hospital?

- A. In a position of comfort
- B. With a mask on the patient and the EMT
- C. In a calm, passive manner
- D. In the left lateral recumbent position

Correct Answer: B

The patient that has possible TB should wear either a surgical mask or a nonrebreather mask. This is used to prevent the spread of the disease and to protect the safety of the health care provider.

QUESTION 12

Which statement about patient confidentiality is correct?

- A. Patients who are cared for in a public place lose their right to confidentiality.
- B. The right to confidentiality does not apply to minors or to wards of the state.
- C. The patient who signs a statement releasing confidential information relinquishes all rights to privacy.
- D. A patient must sign a written release before any confidential information can be disclosed.

Correct Answer: C

Patient information can be released only if the patient has signed a specific consent form.

QUESTION 13

Which of the following substances is the most common cause of anaphylaxis?

- A. Bee stings
- B. Penicillin
- C. Aspirin
- D. Fungi and molds

Correct Answer: B

Penicillin and other antibiotics are the most common causal agents for anaphylaxis. Authorities estimate penicillin to produce an allergic or anaphylactic reaction 1 out of every 10,000 times it is used and cause an estimated 500 deaths per year. By contrast, bee stings are responsible for less than 100 deaths annually. Anaphylactic reactions to aspirin and fungi and molds are infrequent and therefore not common causal agents.

QUESTION 14

What complaint describes a typical presentation of chest pain is often used to describe a cardiac event type of pain?

- A. Sharp stabbing pain which can be located with one finger
- B. A ton of bricks on my chest
- C. A tickling feeling
- D. Dull tooth ach nagging discomfort

Correct Answer: B

Typical cardiac related chest pain is often referred to as a pressure, like "a ton of bricks on my chest" or an elephant sitting on their chest. You can rule out a cardiac event on type of chest pain described alone. Some patients will have atypical chest pain which could be described as anything from sharp pain to a pulled muscle to a tooth ach. Sharp stabbing pain which can be located with one finger is often a Pulmonary Embolism.

QUESTION 15

You should apply the AED pads to your patient when he

- A. Complains of trouble breathing.
- B. Appears confused and "out of it".
- C. Is pulseless and apneic.
- D. Is unconscious and vomiting.

Correct Answer: C

An AED should only be applied when the patient does not have a pulse nor respirations.

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