INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

OBJECTIVES

1-1 Identify general principles about the structure of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with at least 80% accuracy.

OBJECTIVES

- Overview of Emergency Medical Services System
- Components of an EMS System

OBJECTIVES

- Roles and Responsibilities of the EMT-B
- Professional Attributes of the EMT-B

Overview of EMS System

- Each state is in charge of their own EMS system
  - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration established Technical Assistance Program Assessment Standards

Assessment Standards

- Regulation and Policy
- Resource Management
- Human Resources and Training
- Transportation
- Facilities

Assessment Standards

- Communications
- Public information and education
- Medical direction
- Trauma systems
- Evaluation

LEVELS OF TRAINING

- First Responder
  - First person on scene with medical training
    - CPR/First Aid

LEVELS OF TRAINING

- EMT-Basic
  - Foundation of pre-hospital care
  - Assessment of ill/injured

LEVELS OF TRAINING

- EMT – Intermediate
  - Advanced airway, IV equipment

LEVELS OF TRAINING

- EMT – Paramedic
  - Invasive field care

ACCESS TO SYSTEM

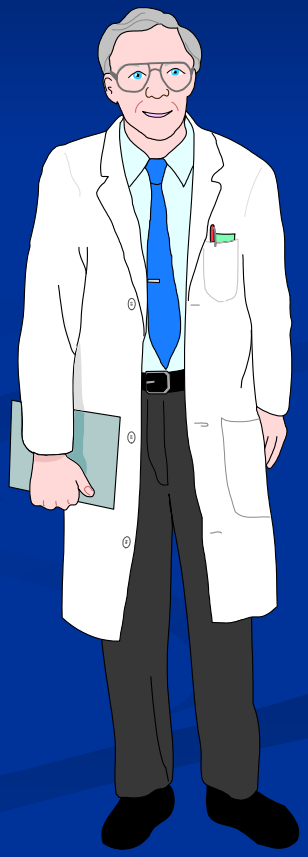
- 911
  - Universal number
  - Ability to gain access to all systems
  - Minimizes delays
- Enhanced 911

ACCESS TO SYSTEM

- Non 911
  - Seven digit number
  - Can result in loss of time for the victim

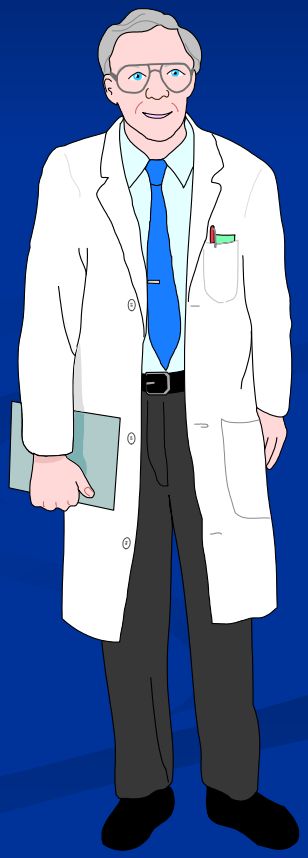
Medical Direction

- A physician responsible for the clinical and patient care aspects of the EMS system



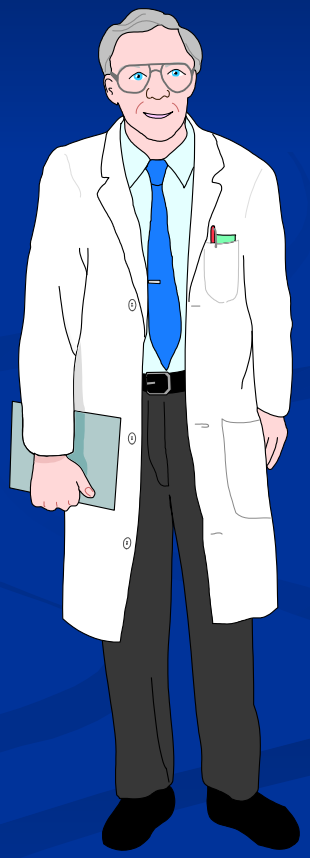
Medical Direction

- Develops protocols
- Every ambulance service must have one
- Responsible for reviewing Quality improvement



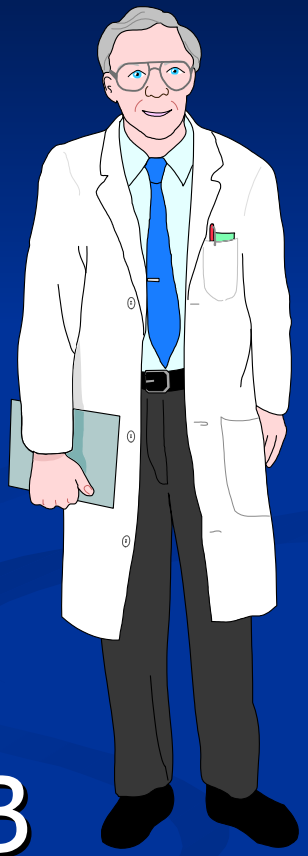
Types of Medical Direction

- On-Line Medical Control
  - Radio
  - Phone



Types of Medical Direction

- Off-Line Medical Control
  - Protocols
    - Definitive steps (CPR)
  - Standing orders
    - Policy that authorizes EMT-B and others to perform particular skills in certain situations



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND EMT-B

- Designated agent of the physician
  - Authorized by the physician to give
    - Medical care
    - Medications

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND EMT-B

- Care rendered is considered an extension of the medical director's authority

Quality Improvement

- A system of internal/external reviews and audits of all aspects of EMS system as to ID those aspects needing improvement to ensure the public receives the highest quality of pre-hospital care

Role of EMT in Quality Improvement

- Documentation
  - Neat, complete, and accurate

Role of EMT in Quality Improvement

- Run reviews and audits
  - Perform individual critiques after each run
  - Have another EMT or higher to proofread your report

Role of EMT in Quality Improvement

- Gather feedback from patients and staff
  - Comments about their pre-hospital care
  - Staff may provide information that will strengthen your care giving skills

Role of EMT in Quality Improvement

- Conduct preventative maintenance
  - Check & maintain equipment regularly

Role of EMT in Quality Improvement

- Continue education
  - Learn new procedures
  - Maintain skills
    - New equipment
    - Articles
    - Seldom used equipment

The Health Care System

- Emergency Room
  - Receives patient from ambulance and provides further testing, diagnosis and treatment

The Health Care System

- Specialty facilities
  - Trauma
  - Burn
  - Pediatric Centers
  - Poison control

The Health Care System

- Hospital personnel
  - Physicians
  - Nurses
  - Allied health professionals
    - EMT's,
    - Paramedics

The Health Care System

- Liaisons with public workers
  - Police/Fire Department

EMT-B RESPONSIBILITIES

- PERSONAL SAFETY FIRST!!!!!!!!!
- Safety of crew, patient, bystanders
- Thorough, accurate patient assessment

EMT-B RESPONSIBILITIES

- Patient care
  - Based on findings
- Safe lifting and moving
  - Without harming you or your patient

EMT-B RESPONSIBILITIES

- Transport
  - Safety in operating the ambulance
- Transfer of care

EMT-B RESPONSIBILITIES

- Record keeping and Data collection
- Patient Advocacy
  - We speak for the patient

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Professional appearance
  - Neat
  - Clean
  - Positive image

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Knowledge and skills
  - Continuing education
    - This training supplements the EMT
      - Classes, videos, journals
  - Refresher courses
    - Shorter than original course

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Puts patient's needs as a priority without endangering self
- Maintains current knowledge of local, state and national issues

REVIEW

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