

# UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

*Student:* \_\_\_\_\_

1. EMT is the abbreviation for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Emergency Medical Transport
  - B. Emergency Medical Technician
  - C. Emergency Medical Training
  - D. Emergency Medical Trauma
  
2. Evidence of the first war-time treatment protocols dates back to the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. U.S. Civil War
  - B. Napoleonic Wars
  - C. Roman Wars
  - D. World Wars
  
3. After volunteering on Civil War battlefields and observing the Franco-Prussian war, Clara Barton founded the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. American Heart Association
  - B. Royal Society for the Resuscitation of the Apparently Dead
  - C. United States Life Saving Service
  - D. American Red Cross
  
4. \_\_\_\_ were developed during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts in an attempt to save the most seriously injured patients through a transportation-dependent method of triaging.
  - A. Ambulance systems
  - B. Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH)
  - C. Air medical transport systems
  - D. The 68W health care specialists
  
5. In 1958, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, known as the Father of EMS, and Dr. Sam Banks started a trauma training course for the Chicago Fire Department in what would become the prototype of the EMT-Ambulance course.
  - A. Eugene Nagel
  - B. Joseph K. "Deke" Farrington
  - C. Leonard Cobb
  - D. Jonathan Letterman

6. In \_\_\_\_\_, the U.S. Congress passed the Emergency Medical Services System (EMSS) Act, identifying 15 essential components of an EMS system and allocating federal funding for individual EMS regions to address these components.

- A. 1971
- B. 1973
- C. 1975
- D. 1977

7. A person who has completed the basic entry level of training for the prehospital care is referred to as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. first responder
- B. emergency medical responder
- C. emergency medical technician
- D. emergency dispatcher

8. The highest level of prehospital EMS education is provided by \_\_\_\_\_ programs.

- A. advanced emergency medical technician
- B. emergency medical responder
- C. paramedic
- D. emergency medical technician

9. \_\_\_\_\_ were developed because health care systems needed to be able to transfer patients rapidly from community hospitals or critical access health facilities to the medical centers where specialized services would be available.

- A. Rapid transport services
- B. Trauma centers
- C. Aeromedical transportation services
- D. Emergency departments

10. In many suburban and rural parts of the United States, EMS is provided by \_\_\_\_\_, whose numbers, however, are declining.

- A. volunteers
- B. nurses
- C. professionals
- D. physicians

11. Describe the three-fold mission of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

12. Describe briefly three possible historical sources of emergency medical services.

13. Describe how accidental deaths on U.S. highways contributed to the development of the EMS system in the 1960s.

14. Describe the adoption and meaning of the national EMS symbol, the Star of Life.

15. Give a brief overview of the history of “911.”

16. Describe the development and content of Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training.

17. Describe paramedic training programs and paramedic skills.

18. What is the significance of the “golden hour”?

19. Briefly describe how the increasing elderly population may affect the future of EMS.

20. What is the role of evidence-based medicine in EMS?

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11. Describe the three-fold mission of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

The first mission of EMS is to provide out-of-hospital patient care in anticipation of transport to more definitive care at the hospital. The second mission of EMS involves public safety, which includes a variety of subjects from injury and illness prevention to disaster preparedness. The third mission is public health, which involves caring for the entire community, rather than just individual citizens.

12. Describe briefly three possible historical sources of emergency medical services.

Perhaps the start of emergency medical service can be attributed to the Good Samaritan, a name given to that ancient wanderer who stopped to help an injured traveler on the roadside. The concept of first aid continued when the Roman military selected soldiers to be medical orderlies to tend to the wounded on the battlefield. Later, religious groups had members who served the people's needs, particularly in healing the sick.

13. Describe how accidental deaths on U.S. highways contributed to the development of the EMS system in the 1960s.

In 1966, the National Academy of Sciences produced a white paper on "Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society" for President Kennedy. It stated that, to that date, more Americans had died on American highways than in all U.S. wars. The National Highway Safety Act of 1966 encouraged states to begin organized EMS programs.

14. Describe the adoption and meaning of the national EMS symbol, the Star of Life.

In 1973 Star of Life was adopted as the national EMS symbol, representing the six points of the complete EMS system: detection, reporting, response, on-scene care, care in transit, and transfer to definitive care. The central staff with a serpent wrapped around it represents medicine and healing.

15. Give a brief overview of the history of "911."

The idea of a three-digit universal access number for emergency services was initiated in 1968 by AT&T. Since then, communities across the United States have adopted 9-1-1. It was hoped that an easily remembered three-digit number (9-1-1) would remedy the problem of accessing emergency medical services quickly.

16. Describe the development and content of Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training.

The need for advanced training for first responders led to the development of a nationally recognized level of training called Emergency Medical Responder (EMR). The EMR learns basic assessment, simple airway management, oxygen administration, bleeding control, rescuer CPR, and defibrillation. An average EMR course would be about 50 hours. Law enforcement officers are frequently trained to be EMRs.

17. Describe paramedic training programs and paramedic skills.

Most paramedic education programs are offered at local community colleges or teaching hospitals. The paramedic training program is usually between 1,000 and 1,500 hours in length and includes expanded training and education in the management of the ill or injured patient. Paramedic skills include comprehensive patient assessment, advanced airway management, intravenous access techniques, expanded medication administration, and cardiac arrest management.

18. What is the significance of the “golden hour”?

Physicians researched the factors contributing to trauma death and concluded that trauma patients needed expert surgical care within the first hour of their injury. Proper surgical care within this so-called “golden hour” is associated with the best chance of survival for a seriously injured patient. As a result, special trauma emergency departments were created.

19. Briefly describe how the increasing elderly population may affect the future of EMS.

As people age, they are likely to develop significant health problems. These increasing health problems often lead to an increased use of medical services. Accordingly, the number of EMS calls to the elderly is increasing. Older adults have special needs that must be recognized, and treatment of the elderly may differ from treatment of younger patients.

20. What is the role of evidence-based medicine in EMS?

To improve the quality of care and decrease the number of errors, emergency physicians have turned to evidence-based medicine (EBM). Physicians using EBM apply evidence from research that uses the scientific method to ascertain what the best practice of medicine is. Practices of questionable efficacy or safety are discarded, and new procedures that have been proven beneficial by research are implemented.