Introduction to Emergency Care
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Lessons
1. Emergency Care [Go]
Lesson 1 – Emergencies

- Sudden illness or injury that requires an immediate medical response
- Emergencies can happen at any time.
Lesson 1 – First Aid

- In many cases, emergency care may require some form of first aid.
- It is important that the general population and all health care workers know how to perform emergency care.
- Agencies such as the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association train people to perform these life-saving procedures.
Lesson 1 – Effective First Aid Providers

Obtain proper first aid training

- This includes:
  - Anyone in the medical field
  - People in jobs that involve child care
  - Park guides, camp counselors, life guards, etc.
Lesson 1 – Effective First Aid Providers (continued)

Be alert for emergency situations

- Unusual sounds
- Unusual sights
- Unusual odors
- Unusual behaviors
Lesson 1 – Effective First Aid Providers (continued)

Assess the situation before taking action

› The first aid provider should have a reason for every action that is taken.

› Treatment depends on multiple factors
Lesson 1 – Effective First Aid Providers (continued)

Remain calm in emergency situations and observe safety precautions

- If possible, get the patient’s consent
- If possible, wash their hands and put on gloves
- Make sure supplies are clean.
- If possible, explain the procedure
- Be careful when lifting heavy objects.
- Flush solutions that come into contact with eyes or skin
- Only perform care for which trained
Lesson 1 - Effective First Aid Providers (continued)

Perform a safety check of the scene before taking action

- Some emergency scenes are unsafe to enter.
- Call for help immediately.

Prioritize tasks and triage

- Triage is a way to prioritize treatment. It determines which patient or which injury is treated first.
- Life-threatening injuries should always be attended to first.
Lesson 1 – Principles of Care

- Get professional care as soon as possible.
- Do not move a patient unless it is required for safety reasons.
- Keep the patient calm.
- Do not give unconscious or vomiting patients any food or fluids, unless the first aid procedure requires it.
- Regulate the patient’s temperature by adding blankets or removing layers of clothing.
- Administer first aid quickly and efficiently.
- Do not attempt to diagnose the patient or discuss the patient’s condition.
- Avoid further injury if possible.
Lesson 1 – Emergency Medical Services

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provides expert care for serious emergencies.

- In many areas of the country, immediate help is available by dialing 911.

- When calling for help, be sure to give complete and accurate information.

- If you cannot call immediately, ask someone else to call for help.
Lesson 1 – Emergency Care Legal Issues

- The haste in which emergency care occurs often leaves the caregivers with little or no time to consider the legal consequences of their actions.

- Emergency care professionals, other health care workers, and anyone else who has first aid training should be aware of some basic legal issues related to emergency care.
Lesson 1 – The Good Samaritan Acts

- State that physicians and first responders are not required to acquire patient consent before performing life-saving procedures in the case of an emergency.

- To be protected by these Acts:
  - Give care in good faith.
  - Act within the scope of their training and knowledge.
  - Use as much care as possible according to the circumstances.
  - Do not bill the patient.
Lesson 1 – Scope of Practice

- Even a Good Samaritan Act cannot protect caregivers who perform procedures outside of their scope of practice.
- Emergency care providers should only perform tasks for which they have been trained.
Lesson 1 – Keeping Records

- Event report after each emergency

- This report includes:
  - The patient’s name and address
  - The date and time of emergency
  - The location of emergency
  - A description of the emergency and its cause
  - A description of actions taken
  - The names, addresses, and signatures of any witnesses
  - The name and signature of the person preparing the report