

Emergency Medical Responder: First on the Scene, 11e (Le Baudour)
Chapter 2 Legal and Ethical Principles of Emergency Care

1) Unlawful physical contact with a patient is called:

- A) negligence.
- B) abandonment.
- C) battery.
- D) harassment.

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 23

Objective: 1

2) The term _____ means the care that should be provided for any level of training based on local laws, administrative orders, and guidelines and protocols established by the local EMS system.

- A) scope of practice
- B) standard of care
- C) ethical response
- D) emergency response

Answer: B

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 28

Objective: 2

3) Ethics are the _____ that guide a person's right, good, and proper behavior.

- A) laws
- B) protocols
- C) duties
- D) moral principles

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 20

Objective: 3

4) You have a patient who has stopped breathing and has no signs of circulation. You notice a medical alert bracelet indicating the patient is a registered organ donor. This patient will be able to provide _____ consent.

- A) informed
- B) implied
- C) expressed
- D) competent

Answer: B

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 23

Objective: 4

5) You are called to help a man who is having chest pains. When you arrive, he insists that he is fine and doesn't need any help. What should you do next?

A) Stay calm and professional, explain the potential dangers of refusing treatment, and document the refusal of care. Follow local laws for calling in additional assistance.

B) Carefully document the refusal of care, inform the patient that you cannot be held responsible for anything further, and withdraw from the scene.

C) Restrain the patient, and begin to evaluate and treat him while waiting for the police to arrive.

D) Inform the patient that he has given implied consent and begin treatment immediately.

Answer: A

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 24

Objective: 5

6) _____ are relatively simple documents that allow individuals to define their wishes or appoint someone else to make health care decisions on their behalf.

A) Living wills

B) Letters of Agreement

C) Consent contracts

D) Advance directives

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 25

Objective: 7

7) During your assessment, a patient tells you that she has a DNR order. What should you do?

A) Inform the patient that you can't do anything for her unless she rescinds the DNR in writing.

B) Inform her that DNR orders have been replaced by the POLST form, and that without a POLST form, she must accept treatment.

C) Provide appropriate comfort and care within the bounds of the DNR.

D) Stop all care immediately as is legally required by the DNR "cease and desist" clause.

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 25

Objective: 8

8) As a paid Emergency Medical Responder, while on duty you are expected to provide care according to the standard operating procedures outlined by your department. This is called:

A) duty to act.

B) standard of care.

C) scope of practice.

D) delegation of authority.

Answer: A

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 26

Objective: 9

9) Certain states have _____ laws that protect care providers from civil liability for delivering care, as long as it is to their level of training and the best of their ability.

- A) Innocent Bystander
- B) Good Samaritan
- C) First Responder
- D) Duty of Care

Answer: B

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 27

Objective: 10

10) HIPAA is a law that dictates the extent to which:

- A) an EMT may provide on-the-scene care.
- B) a hospital may accept or refuse patients.
- C) protected health information may be shared.
- D) a patient may decline treatment or refuse consent.

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 28

Objective: 11

11) _____ must alert authorities to certain events or conditions that they either know or suspect have occurred, such as child or elder abuse.

- A) Emergency Medical Responders
- B) Paramedics (but not EMTs)
- C) Mandated reporters
- D) Bystanders

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 29

Objective: 12

12) You are called to a scene where a young man has been shot while trying to rob a convenience store. When you arrive, the young man is lying on the floor and appears to be bleeding from his leg. The police are trying to calm down the store owner, who is in a rage and is waving his shotgun around. What should you do next?

- A) Treat the patient and remove him from the scene, while staying out of the way of police officers.
- B) Do not enter the scene until it is safe to do so or law enforcement tells you that you may enter.
- C) Preserve the patient's clothing and avoid cutting through any holes from the gunshot.
- D) Tell the store owner to step outside so that you can treat the patient. If the store owner refuses to cooperate, take him immediately into custody.

Answer: B

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 30

Objective: 13

13) Your crew responds to a call for a man who is on the ground with blood running freely from his arm. He is distressed and angrily tells you to go away, but doesn't seem to understand where he is or what has happened to him. His adult daughter tells you that the man has Alzheimer's and is on blood thinners. She begs you to help him. Can you assist the patient?

- A) Yes. You must assist all emergency patients who are actively bleeding.
- B) No. You may not assist a responsive patient who has refused treatment.
- C) No. The patient has refused treatment and assisting him would violate HIPAA.
- D) Yes. The patient is not competent to make rational decisions about his health care.

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 21

Objective: 4

14) You and your partner are on the way back to work when you see a child who has been struck by a vehicle and is unresponsive in the road. You begin care for her and call for advanced care to transport her to a nearby emergency department. You know she can be legally transported based on:

- A) actual consent.
- B) informed consent.
- C) implied consent.
- D) Good Samaritan laws.

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 23

Objective: 4

15) You are responding to a one-car accident on a neighborhood street. An elderly woman hit a telephone pole while swerving to avoid a dog that was running loose. She is conscious and sitting in her car. After you determine that the scene is safe to approach, the next thing you should do is:

- A) ask for the woman's consent for care.
- B) ask the woman to step out of the car so you can assess her injuries.
- C) ensure that the dog is captured and controlled.
- D) provide oxygen and begin an IV for fluids.

Answer: A

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 22

Objective: 4

16) For a lawsuit alleging negligence to be successful, the following four elements must be established EXCEPT:

- A) Duty to act
- B) Breach of duty
- C) Causation
- D) HIPAA violation

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 26

Objective: 9

17) Your patient is a woman with a broken nose. She is at the park with her children, and she tells you she was hit in the face by a swing. After you take her vital signs and begin to administer first aid, she says that she's fine and you can go. From a legal perspective, what are your options?

- A) You could be charged with battery if you continue to assist her.
- B) You could be guilty of abandonment if you leave after beginning care.
- C) You could be charged under the Good Samaritan law if you cease care.
- D) You could be charged with assault if you call for someone with a higher level of training.

Answer: B

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 27

Objective: 10

18) You have a critically injured patient who has been identified as an organ donor. How should this patient's treatment differ from that of other patients?

- A) Consent for organ donation is equivalent to a Do Not Resuscitate order.
- B) The patient should be carefully packed in ice to preserve the organs on the way to the hospital.
- C) The patient should be put on special oxygen for organ preservation.
- D) Emergency care for organ donors must not differ from that of non-organ donors.

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 29

Objective: 13

19) What is considered a breach of duty?

- A) A direct link between the care provided and damage to the patient
- B) A choice to prolong or not prolong life
- C) Care provided to a nonresponsive patient who cannot give consent
- D) Care to a less than an acceptable standard

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 28

Objective: 9

20) What is the difference between a DNR order and an Advance Directive?

- A) An advance directive is decided by the patient and a DNR order is decided by the physician.
- B) An advance directive is decided by the physician and a DNR order is decided by the patient.
- C) An advance directive relates to future treatment, while a DNR order relates to current treatment.
- D) An advance directive relates to current treatment, while a DNR order relates to future treatment.

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 25

Objective: 8

SCENARIO

Use this scenario to answer the following question(s).

You respond to a 67-year-old female who has fallen at home. On arrival the patient is conscious and alert, with no respiratory or cardiac compromise. She states she tripped and fell and now has pain in her left hip. She thinks she might have heard a "pop" as she hit the floor. She has her neighbor at her side and says it is all right if you leave—the neighbor can get her up and to her favorite chair. She's afraid she can't afford the ambulance and the hospital, and she is sure she is just feeling her age. You know that the ambulance is on its way and should arrive soon.

21) For you to care for this patient, you must get her consent for treatment and transport. If you treat this patient against her will, you have committed:

- A) a confidentiality violation.
- B) a standard of care breach.
- C) negligence.
- D) battery.

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 24

Objective: 5

22) The patient requests that you leave, and she tells you that she will get help from her neighbor. She refuses to sign anything either giving or refusing consent. You know the ambulance will be there soon, and you consider leaving. What should you do?

- A) Leave or be charged with battery.
- B) Insist that she must sign the refusal-of-care document.
- C) Tell her neighbor that the woman is irrational and not competent to consent.
- D) Wait for the ambulance to arrive, while calmly explaining to the woman that it would be best to allow care.

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 24

Objective: 5

23) You consider the appropriate _____ for the patient by asking yourself what another individual with your training would and should do under similar circumstances.

- A) legal obligations
- B) ethical response
- C) standard of care
- D) treatment protocols

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 19

Objective: 2

24) After you talk with the patient, she decides to allow you to treat her injury and says that she will go in the ambulance to the hospital. This form of consent is known as:

- A) expressed consent.
- B) uninformed consent.
- C) implied consent.
- D) minor's consent.

Answer: A

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 22

Objective: 4

25) Following the call, one of the neighbors stops you and asks what happened over at that house. You know you cannot speak with the neighbor concerning the patient's condition because it would breach:

- A) the standard of care.
- B) customer service protocols.
- C) patient confidentiality.
- D) your values.

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 28

Objective: 11