



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

Description of the Profession

The Emergency Medical Technician's scope of practice includes basic skills focused on the acute management and transportation of critical and emergent patients. This may occur at an emergency scene until transportation resources arrive, from an emergency scene to a health care facility, between health care facilities, or in other health care settings.

In many communities Emergency Medical Technicians provide a large portion of the out-of-hospital care. In some jurisdictions, especially rural areas, Emergency Medical Technicians provide the highest level of out-of-hospital care. Emergency Medical Technicians work alongside other EMS and health care professionals as an integral part of the emergency care team.

Emergency Medical Technicians' scope of practice includes basic, non-invasive interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with acute out-of-hospital medical and traumatic emergencies. Emergency care is based on assessment findings.

Additionally, Emergency Medical Technicians provide care to minimize secondary injury and provide comfort to the patient and family while transporting the patient to an emergency care facility.

An Emergency Medical Technician's knowledge, skills, and abilities are acquired through formal education and training. The Emergency Medical Technician has the knowledge of, and is expected to be competent in, all of the skills of the EMR. A major difference between the Emergency Medical Responder and the Emergency Medical Technician is the knowledge and skills necessary to provide medical transportation of emergency patients.

The Emergency Medical Technician level is the minimum licensure level for personnel transporting patients in ambulances. The scope of practice is limited to basic skills that are effective and can be performed safely in an out-of-hospital setting with medical oversight and limited training.

The Emergency Medical Technician transports all emergency patients to an appropriate medical facility. The Emergency Medical Technician is not prepared to make decisions independently

regarding the appropriate disposition of patients. The Emergency medical Technician serves as part of an EMS response system, assuring a progressive increase in the level of assessment and care. The Emergency Medical Technician may make destination decisions in collaboration with medical oversight. The principal disposition of the patient encounter will result in the direct delivery of the patient to an acute care facility.

In addition to emergency response, Emergency medical Technicians often perform medical transport services of patients requiring care within their scope of practice.

Psychomotor Skills

The following are the minimum psychomotor skills of the EMT:

- Airway and Breathing
 - Insertion of airway adjuncts intended to go into the oropharynx or nasopharynx
 - Use of positive pressure ventilation devices such as manually triggered ventilators and automatic transport ventilators
- Pharmacological Interventions
 - Assist patients in taking their own prescribed medications
 - Administration of the following over-the-counter medications with appropriate medical oversight:
 - Oral glucose for suspected hypoglycemia
 - Aspirin for chest pain of suspected ischemic origin
- Trauma Care
 - Application and inflation of the pneumatic anti-shock garment (PASG) for fracture stabilization