

### Chapter # 3: Medical, Legal, and Ethical Issues

1. To help protect patients, EMS agencies are required to have \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) public forums with their medical director
  - B) online access to patient records
  - C) an anonymous reporting system
  - D) a privacy officer to answer questions
  
2. As an EMT, the standards of emergency care are often partially based on:
  - A) It is difficult to prove actions were performed if they are not included on the report.
  - B) EMTs are not liable for any actions that are accurately documented.
  - C) Patient care cannot be discredited based on poor documentation.
  - D) Incomplete reports are common and accepted in EMS.
  
3. Which of the following general statements regarding consent is correct?
  - A) A patient can consent to transport but can legally refuse to be treated.
  - B) Patients who are intoxicated are generally allowed to refuse treatment.
  - C) Expressed consent is valid only if given in writing by a family member.
  - D) All patients older than 18 years can legally refuse treatment or transport.
  
4. Which type of consent is involved when a 39-year-old mentally competent female with a severe headache asks you to take her to the hospital?
  - A) Formal
  - B) Implied
  - C) Informed
  - D) Expressed
  
5. You arrive at the scene of a motor vehicle-versus-pedestrian accident. The patient, a 13-year-old male, is unconscious and has multiple injuries. As you are treating the child, a law enforcement officer advises you that the child's parents will be at the scene in approximately 15 minutes. What should you do?
  - A) Transport the child immediately and have the parents meet you at the hospital.
  - B) Treat the child at the scene and wait for the parents to arrive and give consent.
  - C) Begin transport at once and have the parents meet you en route to the hospital.
  - D) Withhold treatment until the parents arrive and give you consent for treatment.
  
6. When is forcible restraint permitted?
  - A) Anytime that the EMT feels threatened
  - B) Only if consent to restrain is given by a family member
  - C) When the patient poses a significant threat to self or others
  - D) Only if law enforcement personnel have witnessed threatening behavior

7. In which of the following circumstances can the EMT legally release confidential patient information?
- A) A police officer requests a copy to place on file
  - B) The family requests a copy for insurance purposes
  - C) A media representative inquires about the patient
  - D) The patient is competent and signs a release form
8. Which aspect of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) MOST affects EMS personnel?
- A) Controlling insurance costs
  - B) Protecting patient privacy
  - C) Preventing insurance fraud
  - D) Ensuring access to insurance
9. During your monthly internal quality improvement (QI) meeting, you review several patient care reports (PCRs) with the staff of your EMS system. You identify the patient's name, age, and sex, and then discuss the treatment that was provided by the EMTs in the field. By taking this approach to the QI process, you:
- A) acted appropriately but must have each EMT sign a waiver stating that he or she will not discuss the cases with others.
  - B) adequately safeguarded the patient's PHI because the cases were discussed internally.
  - C) are in violation of HIPAA because you did not remove the PHI from the PCR beforehand.
  - D) violated the patient's privacy because you should have discussed the information only with the EMTs involved.
10. You respond to the home of a 59-year-old man who is unconscious; has slow, shallow breathing; and has a weak pulse. The family states that the patient has terminal brain cancer and does not wish to be resuscitated. They further state that there is a DNR order for this patient, but they are unable to locate it. You should:
- A) begin treatment and contact medical control as needed.
  - B) honor the patient's wishes and withhold all treatment.
  - C) transport the patient without providing any treatment.
  - D) decide on further action once the DNR order is produced.
11. You and your partner arrive at the scene of a major motor vehicle crash. The driver, a young male, is severely entrapped in his car. He has an open head injury and massive facial trauma. He is unresponsive, is not breathing, and does not have a palpable carotid pulse. You should:
- A) stop any active bleeding and advise dispatch to send a paramedic crew.
  - B) ventilate the patient for 5 minutes and then stop if there is no response.
  - C) request the fire department to extricate the patient so you can begin CPR.
  - D) have your partner check for a pulse to confirm that the patient is deceased.

12. Putrefaction is defined as:
- A) decomposition of the body's tissues.
  - B) profound cyanosis to the trunk and face.
  - C) blood settling to the lowest point of the body.
  - D) separation of the torso from the rest of the body.
13. Where would you MOST likely find information regarding a patient's wishes to be an organ donor?
- A) Driver's license
  - B) Insurance card
  - C) Social Security card
  - D) Voter registration card
14. The EMT's scope of practice within his or her local response area is defined by the:
- A) medical director.
  - B) state EMS office.
  - C) EMS supervisor.
  - D) local health district.
15. When performing his or her duties, the EMT is generally expected to:
- A) consistently exceed the standard of care.
  - B) contact medical control on every EMS call.
  - C) function above his or her scope of practice.
  - D) exercise reasonable care and act prudently.
16. In which of the following situations does a legal duty to act clearly exist?
- A) The EMT witnesses a vehicle crash while off duty.
  - B) A call is received 15 minutes prior to shift change.
  - C) The EMT hears of a cardiac arrest after his or her shift ends.
  - D) A bystander encounters a victim who is not breathing.
17. Which of the following components are needed to prove negligence?
- A) Abandonment, breach of duty, damages, and causation
  - B) Duty to act, abandonment, breach of duty, and causation
  - C) Duty to act, breach of duty, injury/damages, and causation
  - D) Breach of duty, injury/damages, abandonment, and causation
18. Maintaining the chain of evidence at the scene of a crime should include:
- A) quickly moving any weapons out of the patient's sight.
  - B) placing the patient in a private area until the police arrive.
  - C) making brief notes at the scene and then completing them later.
  - D) not cutting through holes in clothing that were caused by weapons.

19. You are called to attend to an elderly patient with an extensive medical history who is now in cardiac arrest. The patient's family tells you that the patient has a DNR order. There is no paperwork available but the patient does have a MedicAlert bracelet indicating Do Not Resuscitate. You should:
- A) initiate resuscitation in the absence of paperwork.
  - B) confirm the patient's identity and honor the DNR order.
  - C) transport with minimal care.
  - D) confirm the patient identity and then confirm the DNR by calling the MedicAlert Foundation number on the bracelet.
20. Which of the following statements about the patient care report is correct?
- A) It is difficult to prove actions were performed if they are not included on the report.
  - B) EMTs are not liable for any actions that are accurately documented.
  - C) Patient care cannot be discredited based on poor documentation.
  - D) Incomplete reports are common and accepted in EMS.

