911 system

A system for telephone access to report emergencies. A dispatcher takes the information and alerts EMS or the fire or police departments as needed. Enhanced 911 has the additional capability of automatically identifying the caller's phone number and location.

Abandonment

Leaving a patient after care has been initiated and before the patient has been transferred to someone with equal or greater medical training.

ABCs

Airway, breathing, and circulation.

Abdominal quadrants

Four divisions of the abdomen used to pinpoint the location of a pain or injury: the right upper quadrant (RUQ), the left upper quadrant (LUQ), the right lower quadrant (RLQ), and the left lower quadrant (LLQ).
spontaneous (miscarriage) or induced termination of pregnancy.

(abi-RAY-zhen) a scratch or scrape.

abruption placenta

(ab-RUPT-si-o plah-SENT-ta) a condition in which the placenta separates from the uterine wall; a cause of prebirth bleeding.

absorbed poisons

poisons that are taken into the body through unbroken skin.
Acetabulum

(A-Suh-TAB-yuh-lum) the pelvic socket into which the ball at the proximal end of the femur fits to form the hip joint.

Acromioclavicular Joint

(Ah-KRO-me-o-klav-IK-yuh-lar) the joint where the acromion and the clavicle meet.

Acromion Process

(Ah-KRO-me-on) the highest portion of the shoulder.

Activated Charcoal

A substance that adsorbs many poisons and prevents them from being absorbed by the body.
Acute Rewarming

Application of an external heat source to rewarm the body of a hypothermic patient.

Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)

A blanket term used to represent any symptoms related to lack of oxygen (ischemia) in the heart muscle. Also called cardiac compromise.

Adolescence

Stage of life from 13 to 18 years.

Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI)

(Ah-KUTE MY-o-KARD-e-ul in-FARK-shun) The condition in which a portion of the myocardium dies as a result of oxygen starvation; often called a heart attack by laypersons.
a DNR order; instructions written in advance of an event.

(aer-O-bik) the cellular process in which oxygen is used to metabolize glucose. Energy is produced in an efficient manner with minimal waste products.

the placenta, membranes of the amniotic sac, part of the umbilical cord, and some tissues from the lining of the uterus that are delivered after the birth of the baby.

irregular, gasping breaths that precede apnea and death.
air embolism

an air or gas bubble in the bloodstream. The plural is air emboli. The more accurate term is arterial gas embolism (AGE).

airway

the passageway by which air enters or leaves the body. The structures of the airway are the nose, mouth, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi, and lungs. See also patent airway.

allergen

something that causes an allergic reaction.

allergic reaction

an exaggerated immune response.
**alveolar ventilation**

(al-VE-o-lar) the amount of air that reaches the alveoli.

**alveoli**

(al-VE-o-li) the microscopic sacs of the lungs where gas exchange with the bloodstream takes place.

**amniotic sac**

(am-ne-OT-ik) the "bag of waters" that surrounds the developing fetus.

**amputation**

(AM-pyu-TAY-shun) the surgical removal or traumatic severing of a body part, usually an extremity.
anaerobic metabolism

(AN-air-o-bik) the cellular process in which glucose is metabolized into energy without oxygen. Energy is produced in an inefficient manner with many waste products.

anaphylaxis

(an-ah-fi-LAK-sis) a severe or life-threatening allergic reaction in which the blood vessels dilate, causing a drop in blood pressure, and the tissues lining the respiratory system swell, interfering with the airway. Also called anaphylactic shock.

anatomical position

the standard reference position for the body in the study of anatomy. In this position, the body is standing erect, facing the observer, with arms down at the sides and the palms of the hands forward.

anatomy

the study of body structure.
anemia

lack of a normal number of red blood cells in the circulation.

aneurysm

(AN-u-rizm) the dilation, or ballooning, of a weakened section of the wall of an artery.

anginapectors

(AN-ji-nah [or an-JI-nah] PEK-to-ris) pain in the chest, occurring when blood supply to the heart is reduced and a portion of the heart muscle is not receiving enough oxygen.

angular fracture

fracture in which the broken bone segments are at an angle to each other.
anterior

the front of the body or body part.

antidote

a substance that will neutralize the poison or its effects.

artery

 Aydın the largest artery in the body. It transports blood from the left ventricle to begin systemic circulation.

appendix

(AP-ne-ah) no breathing.
Appendix

A small tube located near the junction of the small and large intestines in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen, the function of which is not well understood. Its inflammation, called appendicitis, is a common cause of abdominal pain.

Arterial Bleeding

Bleeding from an artery, which is characterized by bright red blood that is rapid, profuse, and difficult to control.

Arteriole

(ar-TE-re-ol) the smallest kind of artery.

Artery

Any blood vessel carrying blood away from the heart.
artificial ventilation

Forcing air or oxygen into the lungs when a patient has stopped breathing or has inadequate breathing. Also called positive pressure ventilation.

aspirin

A medication used to reduce the clotting ability of blood to prevent and treat clots associated with myocardial infarction.

assault

Placing a person in fear of bodily harm.

asystole

(ay-SI-S-to-le) A condition in which the heart has ceased generating electrical impulses.
(AY-tree-ah) the two upper chambers of the heart. There is a right atrium (which receives unoxygenated blood returning from the body) and a left atrium (which receives oxygenated blood returning from the lungs).

A sensation experienced by a seizure patient right before the seizure, which might be a smell, sound, or general feeling.

Auscultation

Auscultation (os-kul-TAY-shun) listening. A stethoscope is used to auscultate for characteristic sounds.

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD)

developmental disorders that affect, among other things, the ability to communicate, report medical conditions, self-regulate behaviors, and interact with others.
a syringe preloaded with medication that has a spring-loaded device that pushes the needle through the skin when the tip of the device is pressed firmly against the body.

A device implanted under the skin of the chest to detect any life-threatening dysrhythmia and deliver a shock to defibrillate the heart.

Automatic Injector

Automatic Implanted Cardiac Defibrillator

Automatic Transport Ventilator (ATV)

Automaticity

A device that provides positive pressure ventilations. It includes settings designed to adjust ventilation rate and volume, is portable, and is easily carried on an ambulance.

(AW-toh-muh-TISS-it-e) the ability of the heart to generate and conduct electrical impulses on its own.
autonomic nervous system

(AW-to-NOM-ik) the division of the peripheral nervous system that controls involuntary motor functions.

AVPU

a memory aid for classifying a patient's level of responsiveness or mental status. The letters stand for alert, verbal response, painful response, unresponsive.

evulsion

(ah-VUL-shun) the tearing away or tearing off of a piece or flap of skin or other soft tissue. This term also may be used for an eye pulled from its socket or a tooth dislodged from its socket.

bag-valve mask (BVM)

a handheld device with a face mask and self-refilling bag that can be squeezed to provide artificial ventilations to a patient. It can deliver air from the atmosphere or oxygen from a supplemental oxygen supply system.
bandage

any material used to hold a dressing in place.

bariatric

having to do with patients who are significantly overweight or obese.

bariatrics

the branch of medicine that deals with the causes of obesity, as well as its prevention and treatment.

base station

a two-way radio at a fixed site such as a hospital or dispatch center.
battery

causing bodily harm to or restraining a person.

behavior

the manner in which a person acts.

behavioral emergency

when a patient's behavior is not typical for the situation; when the patient's behavior is unacceptable or intolerable to the patient, his family, or the community; or when the patient may harm himself or others.

bilateral

on both sides.
Bladder

The round sac-like organ of the renal system used as a reservoir for urine.

Blood pressure

The pressure caused by blood exerting force against the walls of blood vessels. Usually arterial blood pressure (the pressure in an artery) is measured. There are two parts: diastolic blood pressure and systolic blood pressure.

Blood pressure monitor

Machine that automatically inflates a blood pressure cuff and measures blood pressure.

Blunt-force trauma

Injury caused by a blow that does not penetrate the skin or other body tissues.
Body Mechanics

The proper use of the body to facilitate lifting and moving and prevent injury.

Bonding

The sense that needs will be met.

Bones

Hard but flexible living structures that provide support for the body and protection to vital organs.

Braehial artery

(BRAY-key-al) artery of the upper arm; the site of the pulse checked during infant CPR.
**Brachial Pulse**

The pulse felt in the upper arm.

**Bradycardia**

(BRAY-duh-KAR-de-uh) a slow pulse; any pulse rate below 60 beats per minute.

**Braxton-Hicks Contractions**

(braks-tun-hiks) irregular prelabor contractions of the uterus.

**Breech Presentation**

when the baby's buttocks or both legs appear first during birth.
(BRONG-ki) the two large sets of branches that come off the trachea and enter the lungs. There are right and left bronchi. Singular bronchus.

(BRON-ko-kun-STRIK-shun) the contraction of smooth muscle that lines the bronchial passages that results in a decreased internal diameter of the airway and increased resistance to air flow.

(kal-KAY-ne-us) the heel bone.

(KAP-i-lair-e) a thin-walled, microscopic blood vessel where the oxygen/carbon dioxide and nutrient/waste exchange with the body's cells takes place.
Capillary bleeding

bleeding from capillaries, which is characterized by a slow, oozing flow of blood.

Cardiac conduction system

a system of specialized muscle tissues that conducts electrical impulses that stimulate the heart to beat.

Cardiac muscle

specialized involuntary muscle found only in the heart.

Cardiac output

the amount of blood ejected from the heart in 1 minute (heart rate × stroke volume).
cardiogenic shock

shock, or lack of perfusion, brought on not by blood loss, but by inadequate pumping action of the heart. It is often the result of a heart attack or congestive heart failure.

cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

actions taken to revive a person by keeping the person’s heart and lungs working.

cardiovascular system

(KAR-de-o-VAS-kyu-lar) the system made up of the heart (cardio) and the blood vessels (vascular); the circulatory system.

carotid arteries

(kah-ROT-id) the large neck arteries, one on each side of the neck, that carry blood from the heart to the head.
carotid pulse

the pulse felt along the large carotid artery on either side of the neck.

carpals

(KAR-pulz) the wrist bones.

cartilage

tough tissue that covers the joint ends of bones and helps to form certain body parts such as the ear.

cell phone

a phone that transmits through the air instead of over wires so that the phone can be transported and used over a wide area.
cellular respiration

central nervous system (CNS)

the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between cells and circulating blood.

central pulses

the brain and spinal cord.

central IV catheter

a catheter surgically inserted for long-term delivery of medications or fluids into the central circulation.

the carotid and femoral pulses, which can be felt in the central part of the body.
Central Re-warming

cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)

Application of heat to the lateral chest, neck, armpits, and groin of a hypothermic patient.

Cephalic presentation

(se-FAL-ik) when the baby appears head first during birth. This is the normal presentation.

Cervix

(suh-RE-bro-SPI-nal) the fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord.

(SUR-viks) the neck of the uterus at the entrance to the birth canal.
chemoreceptors (ke-mo-re-cept-erz) chemical sensors in the brain and blood vessels that identify changing levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

in emergency medicine, the reason EMS was called, usually in the patient's own words.

clavicle (KLAV-i-kul) the collarbone.

closed extremity injury an injury to an extremity with no associated opening in the skin.
closed wound

an internal injury with no open pathway from the outside.

cold zone

area where the Incident Command post and support functions are located.

commanding form

a word root with an added vowel that can be joined with other words, roots, or suffixes to form a new word.

Command

the first on the scene to establish order and initiate the Incident Command System.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Compartment Syndrome</strong></th>
<th><strong>Compound</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a fracture in which the bone is broken in several places.</td>
<td>a word formed from two or more whole words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>injury caused when tissues such as blood vessels and nerves are constricted within a space as from swelling or from a tight dressing or cast.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compensated Shock</strong></td>
<td><strong>Compound</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>when the patient is developing shock but the body is still able to maintain perfusion. See shock.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
mild closed head injury without detectable damage to the brain. Complete recovery is usually expected.

the transfer of heat from one material to another through direct contact.

the obligation not to reveal information obtained about a patient except to other health care professionals involved in the patient's care, or under subpoena, or in a court of law, or when the patient has signed a release of confidentiality.

the failure of the heart to pump efficiently, leading to excessive blood or fluids in the lungs, the body, or both.
permission from the patient for care or other action by the EMT.

(kon-STRIKT) get smaller.

Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD)

contact with or presence of a material (contaminant) that is present where it does not belong and that is somehow harmful to persons, animals, or the environment.

a gravity exchange process for peritoneal dialysis in which a bag of dialysis fluid is raised above the level of an abdominal catheter to fill the abdominal cavity and then lowered below the level of the abdominal catheter to drain the fluid out.
Continuous Cyclic Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD) a mechanical process for peritoneal dialysis in which a machine fills and empties the abdominal cavity of dialysis solution.

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) a form of noninvasive positive pressure ventilation (NPPV) consisting of a mask and a means of blowing oxygen or air into the mask to prevent airway collapse or to help alleviate difficulty breathing.

Contraindications (KOHN-truh-in-duh-KAY-shunz) specific signs or circumstances under which it is not appropriate, and may be harmful, to administer a drug to a patient.

Constitution (kun-TU-zhun) a bruise. In brain injuries, a bruised brain caused when the force of a blow to the head is great enough to rupture blood vessels.
convection

carrying away of heat by currents of air, water, or other gases or liquids.

Coronary arteries

(KOR-o-nar-e) blood vessels that supply the muscle of the heart (myocardium).

Coronary artery disease (CAD)

diseases that affect the arteries of the heart.

Cranium

(KRAY-ne-um) the bony structure making up the forehead, top, back, and upper sides of the skull.
(krep-uh-TAY-shun) the grating sound or feeling of broken bones rubbing together.

(KREP-i-tus) a grating sensation or sound made when fractured bone ends rub together.

(KRIK-oid) the ring-shaped structure that forms the lower portion of the larynx.

pressure applied to the cricoid ring to minimize air entry into the esophagus during positive pressure ventilation. Also called Sellick maneuver.
Crime scene

the location where a crime has been committed or any place that evidence relating to a crime may be found.

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

a comprehensive system that includes education and resources to both prevent stress and to deal with stress appropriately when it occurs.

Critical thinking

an analytical process that can help someone think through a problem in an organized and efficient manner.

Crowning

when part of the baby is visible through the vaginal opening.
Crush Injury

an injury caused when force is transmitted from the body's exterior to its internal structures. Bones can be broken; muscles, nerves, and tissues damaged; and internal organs ruptured, causing internal bleeding.

cyanosis

(SIGH-uh-NO-sis) a blue or gray color resulting from lack of oxygen in the body.

danger zone

the area around the wreckage of a vehicle collision or other incident within which special safety precautions should be taken.

dead air space

air that occupies the space between the mouth and alveoli but that does not actually reach the area of gas exchange.
**Decompressed Shock**

When the body can no longer compensate for low blood volume or lack of perfusion. Late signs such as decreasing blood pressure become evident. See shock.

**Decompression Sickness**

A condition resulting from nitrogen trapped in the body's tissues, caused by coming up too quickly from a deep, prolonged dive. A symptom of decompression sickness is "the bends," or deep pain in the muscles and joints.

**Decommissioning**

A chemical and/or physical process that reduces or prevents the spread of contamination from persons or equipment; the removal of hazardous substances from employees and their equipment to the extent necessary to preclude foreseeable health effects.

**Defibrillation**

Delivery of an electrical shock to stop the fibrillation of heart muscles and restore a normal heart rhythm.
dehydration

(de-hi-DRAY-shun) an abnormally low amount of water in the body.

delirium tremens (DTs)

(duh-LEER-e-um TREM-uns) a severe reaction that can be part of alcohol withdrawal, characterized by sweating, trembling, anxiety, and hallucinations. Severe alcohol withdrawal with the DTs can lead to death if untreated.

dermabrome

dermis

(DERM-uh-tohm) an area of the skin that is innervated by a single spinal nerve.

(DER-mis) the inner (second) layer of skin, rich in blood vessels and nerves, found beneath the epidermis.
an EMT or other person authorized by a Medical Director to give medications and provide emergency care. The transfer of such authorization to a designated agent is an extension of the Medical Director's license to practice medicine.

an assessment of the head, neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, extremities, and posterior of the body to detect signs and symptoms of injury. It differs from the rapid trauma assessment only in that it also includes examination of the face, ears, eyes, nose, and mouth during the examination of the head. It may be done less rapidly, and it may be done en route to the hospital after earlier on-scene assessments and interventions are completed.

diabetes mellitus

(di-ah-BEE-tez MEL-i-tus) also called "sugar diabetes" or just "diabetes," the condition brought about by decreased insulin production or the inability of the body cells to use insulin properly. The person with this condition is a diabetic.

diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)

(di-ah-BET-ic KEY-to-as-id-DO-sis) a condition that occurs as the result of high blood sugar (hyperglycemia), characterized by dehydration, altered mental status, and shock.
a description or label for a patient's condition that assists a clinician in further evaluation and treatment.

the process by which toxins and excess fluid are removed from the body by a medical system independent of the kidneys.

(Di-uh-fram) the muscular structure that divides the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity. A major muscle of respiration.

(di-as-TOL-ik) the pressure remaining in the arteries when the left ventricle of the heart is relaxed and refilling.
Diffusion: a process by which molecules move from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration.

Differential diagnosis: a list of potential diagnoses compiled early in the assessment of the patient.

Digestive system: system by which food travels through the body and is digested, or broken down into absorbable forms.

Dilute: (Di-late) get larger.
Dilution

(di-LU-shun) thinning down or weakening by mixing with something else. Ingested poisons are sometimes diluted by drinking water or milk.

Direct Carry

a method of transferring a patient from bed to stretcher, during which two or more rescuers curl the patient to their chests, then reverse the process to lower the patient to the stretcher.

Direct Ground Lift

a method of lifting and carrying a patient from ground level to a stretcher in which two or more rescuers kneel, curl the patient to their chests, stand, then reverse the process to lower the patient to the stretcher.

Disability

a physical, emotional, behavioral, or cognitive condition that interferes with a person's ability to carry out everyday tasks, such as working or caring for oneself.
disaster plan

a predefined set of instructions for a community’s emergency responders.

dislocation

the disruption or “coming apart” of a joint.

distal

spreading.

farther away from the torso.
(dis-TEN-shun) a condition of being stretched, inflated, or larger than normal.

(DNR) a legal document, usually signed by the patient and his physician, which states that the patient has a terminal illness and does not wish to prolong life through resuscitative efforts.

dorsal

terrorism directed against the government or population without foreign direction.

referring to the back of the body or the back of the hand or foot. A synonym for posterior.
dorsalis pedis artery

(dor-SAL-is PEED-is) artery supplying the foot, lateral to the large tendon of the big toe.

depressants, such as barbiturates, that depress the central nervous system, which are often used to bring on a more relaxed state of mind.

dressings

a method of transferring a patient from bed to stretcher by grasping and pulling the loosened bottom sheet of the bed.

any material (preferably sterile) used to cover a wound that will help control bleeding and prevent additional contamination.
Drop report (or transfer report) is an abbreviated form of the PCR that an EMS crew can leave at the hospital when there is not enough time to complete the PCR before leaving.

Drowning is the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid, which may result in death, morbidity (illness or other adverse effects), or no morbidity.

duty to act

dyspnea (DISP-ne-ah) shortness of breath; labored or difficult breathing.

an obligation to provide care to a patient.
Dysrhythmia (dis-RITH-mé-ah) a disturbance in heart rate and rhythm.

Early adulthood stage of life from 19 to 40 years.

Eclampsia (ek-LAMP-se-ah) a severe complication of pregnancy that produces seizures and coma.

Ectopic pregnancy (ek-TOP-ik) when implantation of the fertilized egg is not in the body of the uterus, occurring instead in the fallopian tube (oviduct), cervix, or abdominopelvic cavity.
**Edema**

(“eh-DEE-muh”) swelling associated with the movement of water into the interstitial space causing a buildup of fluid in the tissues.

**Electrolyte**

(“e-LEK-tro-lite”) a substance that, when dissolved in water, separates into charged particles.

**Embolism**

(“EM-bo-lizm”) blockage of a vessel by a clot or foreign material brought to the site by the blood current.

**Embyro**

(“EM-bree-o”) the baby from fertilization to 8 weeks of development.
a description or label for a patient’s condition, based on the patient’s history, physical exam, and vital signs, that assists the EMT in further evaluation and treatment. An EMS diagnosis is often less specific than a traditional medical diagnosis.

irreversible renal failure to the extent that the kidneys can no longer provide adequate filtration and fluid balance to sustain life; survival with ESRD usually requires dialysis.

(EN-do-krin) system of glands that produce chemicals called hormones that help to regulate many body activities and functions.

(EN-tur-al) referring to a route of medication administration that uses the gastrointestinal tract, such as swallowing a pill.
epidermis

(ep-i-DER-mis) the outer layer of the skin.

epiglottis

(EP-i-GLOT-is) a leaf-shaped structure that prevents food and foreign matter from entering the trachea.

epilepsy

(EP-uh-lep-see) a medical condition that causes seizures.

epinephrine

(EP-uh-NEF-rin) a hormone produced by the body. As a medication, it constricts blood vessels and dilates respiratory passages and is used to relieve severe allergic reactions.
regarding a social system or social or professional expectations for applying principles of right and wrong.

the change from liquid to gas. When the body perspires or gets wet, evaporation of the perspiration or other liquid into the air has a cooling effect on the body.

description of medical techniques or practices that are supported by scientific evidence of their safety and efficacy, rather than merely on supposition and tradition.

(e-vis-er-AY-shun) an intestine or other internal organ protruding through a wound in the abdomen.
one cycle of filling and draining the peritoneal cavity in peritoneal dialysis.

bizarre and/or aggressive behavior, shouting, paranoia, panic, violence toward others, insensitivity to pain, unexpected physical strength, and hyperthermia, usually associated with cocaine or amphetamine use. Also called agitated delirium.

(EX-huh-LAY-shun) a passive process in which the intercostal (rib) muscles and the diaphragm relax, causing the chest cavity to decrease in size and air to flow out of the lungs. Also called expiration.

see exhalation.
exposure

the dose or concentration of an agent multiplied by the time, or duration.

expressed consent

consent given by adults who are of legal age and mentally competent to make a rational decision in regard to their medical well-being.

extremities

(ex-TREM-i-teez) the portions of the skeleton that include the clavicles, scapulae, arms, wrists, and hands (upper extremities) and the pelvis, thighs, legs, ankles, and feet (lower extremities).

extremity lift

a method of lifting and carrying a patient during which one rescuer slips hands under the patient's armpits and grasps the wrists, while another rescuer grasps the patient's knees.
Fallopian tube

(fu-LO-pe-an) the narrow tube that connects the ovary to the uterus. Also called the oviduct.

Feeding tube

a tube used to provide delivery of nutrients to the stomach. A nasogastric feeding tube is inserted through the nose and into the stomach; a gastric feeding tube is surgically implanted through the abdominal wall and into the stomach.

Femoral artery

(FEM-o-ral) the major artery supplying the leg.

Femur

(FEE-mer) the large bone of the thigh.
Fetus - the baby from 8 weeks of development to birth.

Fibula - the lateral and smaller bone of the lower leg.

FIO2 - fraction of inspired oxygen; the concentration of oxygen in the air we breathe.

Fracture of two or more adjacent ribs in two or more places that allows for free movement of the fractured segment.
a device that uses oxygen under pressure to deliver artificial ventilations. Its trigger is placed so that the rescuer can operate it while still using both hands to maintain a seal on the face mask. It has automatic flow restriction to prevent overdelivery of oxygen to the patient.

a valve that indicates the flow of oxygen in liters per minute.

(FON-ta-nel) a soft spot on an infant's anterior scalp formed by the joining of not yet fused bones of the skull.

(FOR-uhi-men MAG-num) the opening at the base of the skull through which the spinal cord passes from the brain.
Flutter position

a sitting position.

Fracture

(FRAK-cher) any break in a bone.

Gag reflex

vomiting or retching that results when something is placed in the back of the pharynx. This is tied to the swallow reflex.

Gallbladder

a sac on the underside of the liver that stores bile produced by the liver.
General Impression

impression of the patient's condition that is formed on first approaching the patient, based on the patient's environment, chief complaint, and appearance.

Generalized Seizure

a seizure that affects both sides of the brain.

Glucose

(GLU-kos) a form of sugar, the body's basic source of energy.

Good Samaritan Laws

a series of laws, varying in each state, designed to provide limited legal protection for citizens and some health care personnel when they are administering emergency care.
an incomplete fracture.

(huh-LOO-sin-uh-jens) mind-affecting or mind-altering drugs that act on the central nervous system to produce excitement and distortion of perceptions.

any substance or material in a form which poses an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce.

the release of a harmful substance into the environment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head-tilt, chin-lift maneuver</th>
<th>Hematoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a means of correcting blockage of the airway by the tongue by tilting the head back and lifting the chin. Used when no trauma, or injury, is suspected.</td>
<td>(hem-ah-TO-mah) a swelling caused by the collection of blood under the skin or in damaged tissues as a result of an injured or broken blood vessel. In a head injury, a collection of blood within the skull or brain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhage</td>
<td>Hemorrhagic shock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(HEM-o-rej) bleeding, especially severe bleeding.</td>
<td>(HEM-or-AJ-ik) shock resulting from blood loss.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(HEM-o-STAT-ik) substances applied as powders, dressings, gauze, or bandages to open wounds to stop bleeding.

(her-ne-AY-shun) pushing of a portion of the brain through the foramen magnum as a result of increased intracranial pressure.

HIPAA

the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, a federal law protecting the privacy of patient-specific health care information and providing the patient with control over how this information is used and distributed.

information gathered regarding the symptoms and nature of the patient's current concern.
Phleas

Red, itchy, possibly raised blotches on the skin that often result from allergic reactions.

Hot Zone

Area immediately surrounding a hazmat incident; extends far enough to prevent adverse effects outside the zone.

Humerus

(HYU-mer-us) the bone of the upper arm, between the shoulder and the elbow.

Humidifier

A device connected to the flowmeter to add moisture to the dry oxygen coming from an oxygen cylinder.
Hydrostatic pressure

(Hi-dro-STAT-ik) the pressure within a blood vessel that tends to push water out of the vessel.

Hyperglycemia

(Hi-per-gli-SEE-me-ah) high blood sugar.

Hypersensitivity

an exaggerated response by the immune system to a particular substance.

Hyperthermia

(Hi-per-THURM-e-ah) an increase in body temperature above normal, which is a life-threatening condition in its extreme.
Hypoglycemia (hi-po-gli-SEE-me-ah) low blood sugar.

Hypoperfusion (hi-po-per-FEW-zhun) inability of the body to adequately circulate blood to the body's cells to supply them with oxygen and nutrients. Also called shock. See also perfusion.

Hypothermia (hi-po-THURM-e-ah) generalized cooling that reduces body temperature below normal, which is a life-threatening condition in its extreme.

Hypovolemic shock (hi-po-vo-LE-mik) shock resulting from blood or fluid loss.
Hyponxia

(hi-POK-se-uh) an insufficiency of oxygen in the body's tissues.

Ilium

(IL-e-um) the superior and widest portion of the pelvis.

Implied consent

The consent it is presumed a patient or patient's parent or guardian would give if they could, such as for an unconscious patient or a parent who cannot be contacted when care is needed.

In loco parentis

In place of the parents, indicating a person who may give consent for care of a child when the parents are not present or able to give consent.
Incident Command

the person or persons who assume overall direction of a large-scale incident.

Indications

index of suspicion

Awareness that there may be injuries.

Incident Command System (ICS)

a subset of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) designed specifically for management of multiple-casualty incidents.

Indications

Specific signs or circumstances under which it is appropriate to administer a drug to a patient.
Induced abortion

expulsion of a fetus as a result of deliberate actions taken to stop the pregnancy.

Infancy

stage of life from birth to 1 year of age.

Inferior

away from the head; usually compared with another structure that is closer to the head (e.g., the lips are inferior to the nose).

Ingested poisons

poisons that are swallowed.
Inhalation

(IN-huh-LAY-shun) an active process in which the intercostal (rib) muscles and the diaphragm contract, expanding the size of the chest cavity and causing air to flow into the lungs. Also called inspiration.

Inhaler

a spray device with a mouthpiece that contains an aerosol form of a medication that a patient can spray into his airway.

Inhaled poisons

poisons that are breathed in.

Injected poisons

poisons that are inserted through the skin; for example, by needle, snake fangs, or insect stinger.
Inspiration

see inhalation.

Insulin

(IN-suh-lin) a hormone produced by the pancreas or taken as a medication by many diabetics.

International Terrorism

terrorism that is foreign-based or directed.

Interventions

actions taken to correct or manage a patient's problems.
Intracranial Pressure (ICP)

(IN-truh-KRAY-ne-ul) pressure inside the skull.

Involuntary muscle

muscle that responds automatically to brain signals but cannot be consciously controlled.

Irreversible shock

when the body has lost the battle to maintain perfusion to vital organs. Even if adequate vital signs return, the patient may die days later due to organ failure.

Ischium

(ISH-e-um) the lower, posterior portions of the pelvis.
Jaw-thrust maneuver

A means of correcting blockage of the airway by moving the jaw forward without tilting the head or neck. Used when trauma, or injury, is suspected to open the airway without causing further injury to the spinal cord in the neck.

Joint

The point where two bones come together.

Jugular vein distention (JVD)

(JUG-yuh-ler) bulging of the neck veins.

Kidneys

Organs of the renal system used to filter blood and regulate fluid levels in the body.
Labia (LAY-be-uh) soft tissues that protect the entrance to the vagina.

Labor the three stages of the delivery of a baby that begin with the contractions of the uterus and end with the expulsion of the placenta.

Laceration (las-er-AY-shun) a cut. In brain injuries, a cut to the brain.

Large Intestine the muscular tube that removes water from waste products received from the small intestine and moves anything not absorbed by the body toward excretion from the body.
(LAIIR-inks) the voice box.

Late adulthood

stage of life from 61 years and older.

Lateral

Left Ventricular Assist Device

to the side, away from the midline of the body.

(LVAD) a battery-powered mechanical pump implanted in the body to assist a failing left ventricle in pumping blood to the body.
being held legally responsible.

false or injurious information in written form.

tissue that connects bone to bone.

the sensation of the fetus moving from high in the abdomen to low in the birth canal.
when an infant's limb protrudes from the vagina before the appearance of any other body part.

the largest organ of the body, which produces bile to assist in breakdown of fats and assists in the metabolism of various substances in the body.

cooling or freezing of particular (local) parts of the body.

the organs where exchange of atmospheric oxygen and waste carbon dioxide take place.
malar

(MAY-lar) the cheek bone, also called the zygomatic bone.

malleolus

(mal-E-o-lus) protrusion on the side of the ankle. The lateral malleolus, at the lower end of the fibula, is seen on the outer ankle; the medial malleolus, at the lower end of the tibia, is seen on the inner ankle.

mandible

(MAN-di-bul) the lower jaw bone.

manual traction

the process of applying tension to straighten and realign a fractured limb before splinting. Also called tension.
manubrium (man-OO-bre-um) the superior portion of the sternum.

maxilla (mak-SIL-ə) the two fused bones forming the upper jaw.

mechanism of injury a force or forces that may have caused injury.

meconium staining amniotic fluid that is greenish or brownish-yellow rather than clear as a result of fetal defecation; an indication of possible maternal or fetal distress during labor.
toward the midline of the body.

oversight of the patient-care aspects of an EMS system by the Medical Director.

Medical Director

a physician who assumes ultimate responsibility for the patient-care aspects of the EMS system.

Medical Patient

a patient suffering from one or more medical diseases or conditions.
mental status

level of responsiveness.

metabolism

(meh-TAB-o-lizm) the cellular function of converting nutrients into energy.

metacarpals

(MET-uh-KAR-pulz) the hand bones.

metatarsals

(MET-uh-TAR-sulz) the foot bones.
(mid-AX-uh-lair-e) a line drawn vertically from the middle of the armpit to the ankle.

(mid-clah-VIK-yuh-ler) the line through the center of each clavicle.

middle adulthood

stage of life from 41 to 60 years.

midline

an imaginary line drawn down the center of the body, dividing it into right and left halves.
the amount of air breathed in during each respiration multiplied by the number of breaths per minute.

see spontaneous abortion.

a two-way radio that is used or affixed in a vehicle.

soft tissue that covers the pubic symphysis; area where hair grows as a woman reaches puberty.
regarding personal standards or principles of right and wrong.

when startled, an infant throws his arms out, spreads his fingers, then grabs with his fingers and arms.

when more than one baby is born during a single delivery.

more than one serious injury.
body and skeletal movement
and skeletal muscles that support and protect the body (MUS-KY-LO-SKE-L-ETAL) the system of bones parts and organs.

musculoskeletal system

muscles

body system

any medical or trauma incident involving multiple

multisystem trauma

multiple-casualty incident (MCI)
narcotics

a class of drugs that affect the nervous system and change many normal body activities. Their legal use is for the relief of pain. Illicit use is to produce an intense state of relaxation.

nasal bones

(NAY-zul) the bones that form the upper third, or bridge, of the nose

nasal cannula

(NAY-zul KAN-yuh-luh) a device that delivers low concentrations of oxygen through two prongs that rest in the patient’s nostrils.

nasopharyngeal airway

(NAY-zo-fah-RIN-jul) a flexible breathing tube inserted through the patient’s nose into the pharynx to help maintain an open airway.
nasopharynx

(NAY-zo-FAIR-inks) the area directly posterior to the nose.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

the management system used by federal, state, and local governments to manage emergencies in the United States.

nature of the illness

negligence

what is medically wrong with a patient.

a finding of failure to act properly in a situation in which there was a duty to act, that needed care as would reasonably be expected of the EMT was not provided, and that harm was caused to the patient as a result.
**Neo**-nate

(NEE-oh-nate) a newly born infant or an infant less than 1 month old.

**Nervous system**

the system of brain, spinal cord, and nerves that govern sensation, movement, and thought.

**Neurogenic shock**

a state of shock (hypoperfusion) caused by nerve paralysis that sometimes develops from spinal cord injuries.

**Nitroglycerin**

(NYE-tro-GLIS-uh-rin) a drug that helps to dilate the coronary vessels that supply the heart muscle with blood.
nonrebreather mask (NRB)
a face mask and reservoir bag device that delivers high concentrations of oxygen. The patient's exhaled air escapes through a valve and is not rebreathed.

obesity
a condition of having too much body fat, defined as a body mass index of 30 or greater.

occlusion
(uh-KLU-zhun) blockage, as of an artery by fatty deposits.

occlusive dressing
any dressing that forms an airtight seal.
OPQRST

a memory aid in which the letters stand for questions asked to get a description of the present illness: onset, provokes, quality, radiation, severity, time.

Oral glucose

(GLU-kos) a form of glucose (a kind of sugar) given by mouth to treat an awake patient (who is able to swallow) with an altered mental status and a history of diabetes.

Orbit

the bony structures around the eyes; the eye sockets.

Organ donor

a person who has completed a legal document that allows for donation of organs and tissues in the event of death.
(OR-o-FAIR-inks) the area directly posterior to the mouth.

an external pouch that collects fecal matter diverted from the colon or ileum through a surgical opening (colostomy or ileostomy) in the abdominal wall.

egg-producing organs within the female reproductive system.
(ov-U-LA-shun) the phase of the female reproductive cycle in which an ovum is released from the ovary.

**oxygen**

a gas commonly found in the atmosphere. Pure oxygen is used as a drug to treat any patient whose medical or traumatic condition may cause him to be hypoxic, or low in oxygen.

**oxygen cylinder**

a cylinder filled with oxygen under pressure.

**oxygen saturation (SPO2)**

the ratio of the amount of oxygen present in the blood to the amount that could be carried, expressed as a percentage.
pacemaker

A device implanted under the skin with wires implanted into the heart to modify the heart rate as needed to maintain an adequate heart rate.

palmar

referring to the palm of the hand.

palmar reflex

palpation

When you place your finger in an infant's palm, he will grasp it.

touching or feeling. A pulse or blood pressure may be palpated with the fingertips.
pancreas

a gland located behind the stomach that produces insulin and juices that assist in digestion of food in the duodenum of the small intestine.

paradoxic motion

(pair-uh-DOCK-si-kuh) movement of ribs in a flail segment that is opposite to the direction of movement of the rest of the chest cavity.

parenteral

(pair-EN-tur-al) referring to a route of medication administration that does not use the gastrointestinal tract, such as an intravenous medication.

parietal pain

a localized, intense pain that arises from the parietal peritoneum, the lining of the abdominal cavity.
Partial Rebreather Mask

A face mask and reservoir oxygen bag with no one-way valve to the reservoir bag so that some exhaled air mixes with the oxygen; used in some patients to help preserve carbon dioxide levels in the blood to stimulate breathing.

Partial Seizure

A seizure that affects only one part or one side of the brain.

Partial Thickness Burn

A burn in which the epidermis (first layer of skin) is burned through and the dermis (second layer) is damaged. Burns of this type cause reddening, blistering, and a mottled appearance. Also called a second-degree burn.

Passive Rewarming

Covering a hypothermic patient and taking other steps to prevent further heat loss and help the body rewarm itself.
Past Medical History (PMH)

Information gathered regarding the patient's health problems in the past.

Patella

(pah-TEL-uh) the kneecap.

Patient

Patient Airways

(pay-tent) open and clear; free from obstruction.

An airway (passage from nose or mouth to lungs) that is open and clear and will remain open and clear, without interference to the passage of air into and out of the body.
Pathogens are the organisms that cause infection, such as viruses and bacteria.

Pathophysiology (path-o-fiz-e-O-L-o-je) is the study of how disease processes affect the function of the body.

Patient outcomes are the long-term survival of patients,

Pedal edema is accumulation of fluid in the feet or ankles.
(pee-dee-AT-rik) of or pertaining to a patient who has yet to reach puberty.

the basin-shaped bony structure that supports the spine and is the point of proximal attachment for the lower extremities.

injury caused by an object that passes through the skin or other body tissues.

the organ of male reproduction responsible for sexual intercourse and the transfer of sperm.
(pur-FEW-zhun) the supply of oxygen to, and removal of wastes from, the cells and tissues of the body as a result of the flow of blood through the capillaries.

(per-i-NE-um) the surface area between the vagina and anus.

Peripheral nerves (PNS)

the nerves that enter and leave the spinal cord and travel between the brain and organs without passing through the spinal cord.

Peripheral pulses

the radial, brachial, posterior tibial, and dorsalis pedis pulses, which can be felt at peripheral (out-lying) points of the body.
Peritonitis

The membrane that lines the abdominal cavity (the parietal peritoneum) and covers the organs within it (the visceral peritoneum).

Bacterial infection within the peritoneal cavity.

Permeation

The movement of a substance through a surface or, on a molecular level, through intact materials; penetration, or spreading.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Equipment that protects the EMS worker from infection and/or exposure to the dangers of rescue operations.
phalanges

(fuh-LAN-jiz) the toe bones and finger bones.

pharmacodynamics

(FARM-uh-KO-die-nam-ICS) the study of the effects of medications on the body.

pharmacology

(FARM-uh-KOL-uh-je) the study of drugs, their sources, their characteristics, and their effects.

pharynx

(FAIR-inks) the area directly posterior to the mouth and nose. It is made up of the oropharynx and the nasopharynx.
Physiology

the study of body function.

Placenta

(plah-SEN-tah) the organ of pregnancy where exchange of oxygen, nutrients, and wastes occurs between a mother and fetus.

Placenta previa

(plah-SEN-tah PRE-vi-ah) a condition in which the placenta is formed in an abnormal location (low in the uterus and close to or over the cervical opening) that will not allow for a normal delivery of the fetus; a cause of excessive prebirth bleeding.

Plane

a flat surface formed when slicing through a solid object.
planner

referring to the sole of the foot.

plasma

(PLAZ-mah) the fluid portion of the blood.

plasma oncotic pressure

(PLAZ-ma on-KOT-ik) the pull exerted by large proteins in the plasma portion of blood that tends to pull water from the body into the bloodstream.

platelets

components of the blood; membrane-enclosed fragments of specialized cells.
**Pneumothorax**

Air in the chest cavity.

**Pocket Face Mask**

A device, usually with a one-way valve, to aid in artificial ventilation. A rescuer breathes through the valve when the mask is placed over the patient's face. It also acts as a barrier to prevent contact with a patient's breath or body fluids. It can be used with supplemental oxygen when fitted with an oxygen inlet.

**Poison**

Any substance that can harm the body by altering cell structure or functions.

**Portable Radio**

A handheld two-way radio.
the back of the body or body part.

posterior

inadequate breathing or respiratory arrest caused by a body position that restricts breathing.

positional asphyxia

(1) B-e-u-l) artery supplying the foot, behind the medial ankle.

posterior tibial artery

See artificial ventilation.

positive pressure ventilation
(post-ICU) the period of time immediately following a tonic-clonic seizure in which the patient goes from full loss of consciousness to full mental status.

gripping with as much hand surface as possible in contact with the object being lifted, all fingers bent at the same angle, and hands at least 10 inches apart.

Power Lift

A lift from a squatting position with weight to be lifted close to the body, feet apart and flat on the ground, body weight on or just behind the balls of the feet, and the back locked-in. The upper body is raised before the hips. Also called the squat-lift position.

Preeclampsia

(pre-e-KLAMP-se-ah) a complication of pregnancy in which the woman retains large amounts of fluid and has hypertension. She may also experience seizures and/or coma during birth, which is very dangerous to the infant.
prex

word part added to the beginning of a root or word to modify or qualify its meaning.

premature infant

any newborn weighing less than 5 1/2 pounds or born before the 37th week of pregnancy.

preschool age

stage of life from 3 to 5 years.

pressure dressing

a bulky dressing held in position with a tightly wrapped bandage, which applies pressure to help control bleeding.
a device connected to an oxygen cylinder to reduce cylinder pressure so it is safe for delivery of oxygen to a patient.

(PRY-ah-pizm) persistent erection of the penis that may result from spinal injury and some medical problems.

the first element in a patient assessment; steps taken for the purpose of discovering and dealing with any life-threatening problems. The six parts of primary assessment are: forming a general impression, assessing mental status, assessing airway, assessing breathing, assessing circulation, and determining the priority of the patient for treatment and transport to the hospital.

the decision regarding the need for immediate transport of the patient versus further assessment and care at the scene.
Proximal umbilical cord

When the umbilical cord presents first and is squeezed between the vaginal wall and the baby's head.

Lying face down.

Protocols

Lists of steps, such as assessments and interventions, to be taken in different situations. Protocols are developed by the Medical Director of an EMS system.

Closer to the torso.
pubis

(PYOO-bis) the medial anterior portion of the pelvis.

pulmonary arteries

(PUL-mo-nar-e) the vessels that carry deoxygenated blood from the right ventricle of the heart to the lungs.

pulmonary edema

accumulation of fluid in the lungs.

pulmonary respiration

the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the alveoli and circulating blood in the pulmonary capillaries.
Pulmonary veins

the vessels that carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the left atrium of the heart.

Pulse

the rhythmic beats caused as waves of blood move through and expand the arteries.

Pulse oximeter

an electronic device for determining the amount of oxygen carried in the blood, known as the oxygen saturation or SpO₂.

Pulse quality

the rhythm (regular or irregular) and force (strong or weak) of the pulse.
Pulse Rate

The number of pulse beats per minute.

Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA)

A condition in which the heart's electrical rhythm remains relatively normal, yet the mechanical pumping activity fails to follow the electrical activity, causing cardiac arrest.

Puncture Wound

An open wound that tears through the skin and destroys underlying tissues. A penetrating puncture wound can be shallow or deep. A perforating puncture wound has both an entrance and an exit wound.

Pupil

The black center of the eye.
quality improvement

radial artery

the process of continuous self-review with the purpose of identifying and correcting aspects of the system that require improvement.

artery of the lower arm. It is felt when taking the pulse at the wrist.

radial pulse

radial

(RAY-de-ul) the pulse felt at the wrist.

radiation

sending out energy, such as heat, in waves into space.
(RAY-de-us) the lateral bone of the forearm.

a rapid assessment of the head, neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, extremities, and posterior of the body to detect signs and symptoms of injury.

(re-ak-TIV-uh-te) in the pupils of the eyes, reacting to light by changing size.

a procedure for detecting changes in a patient's condition. It involves four steps: repeating the primary assessment, repeating and recording vital signs, repeating the physical exam, and checking interventions.
Recovery position

lying on the side. Also called lateral recumbent position.

Red blood cells

components of the blood. They carry oxygen to, and carbon dioxide away from, the cells.

Red flag

a sign or symptom that suggests the possibility of a particular problem that is very serious.

Referred pain

pain that is felt in a location other than where the pain originates.
rem

Renal Failure

roentgen equivalent (in) man; a measure of radiation dosage.

loss of the kidneys' ability to filter the blood and remove toxins and excess fluid from the body.

Renal System

Repeater

the body system that regulates fluid balance and the filtration of blood. Also called the urinary system.

a device that picks up signals from lower-power radio units, such as mobile and portable radios, and retransmits them at a higher power. It allows low-power radio signals to be transmitted over longer distances.
Reproductive System

the body system that is responsible for human reproduction.

Res ipsa loquitur

a Latin term meaning "the thing speaks for itself.

Respiration

(RESp-AY-shun) the diffusion of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the alveoli and the blood (pulmonary respiration) and between the blood and the cells (cellular respiration). Also used to mean, simply, breathing.

Respiratory arrest

when breathing completely stops.
Respiratory distress
increased work of breathing; a sensation of shortness of breath.

Respiratory failure
the reduction of breathing to the point where oxygen intake is not sufficient to support life.

Respiratory quality
(RESP-uh-ruh-tor-i-e) the normal or abnormal (shallow, labored, or noisy) character of breathing.

Respiratory rate
the number of breaths taken in 1 minute.
Respiratory Rhythm

the regular or irregular spacing of breaths.

Respiratory System

(RES-pir-ah-lor-e) the system of nose, mouth, throat, lungs, and muscles that brings oxygen into the body and expels carbon dioxide.

Rectangular Activating System (RAS)

(ruh-TIK-yuh-ler) series of neurologic circuits in the brain that control the functions of staying awake, paying attention, and sleeping.

Relaxations

calling in of the skin and soft tissue between the ribs when breathing. This is typically a sign of respiratory distress in children.
the area posterior to the peritoneum, between the peritoneum and the back.

foundation of a word that is not a word that can stand on its own.

Rooting Reflex

when you touch a hungry infant's cheek, he will turn his head toward the side touched.

Routes of entry

pathways into the body, generally by absorption, ingestion, injection, or inhalation.
a method for estimating the extent of a burn. For an adult, each of the following areas represents 9 percent of the body surface: the head and neck, each upper extremity, the chest, the abdomen, the upper back, the lower back and buttocks, the front of each lower extremity, and the back of each lower extremity. The remaining 1 percent is assigned to the genital region. For an infant or child, the percentages are modified so that 18 percent is assigned to the head, 14 percent to each lower extremity.

Safe Haven Law

a law that permits a person to drop off an infant or child at a police, fire, or EMS station or to deliver the infant or child to any available public safety personnel. The intent of the law is to protect children who may otherwise be abandoned or harmed.

Sample

a method for estimating the extent of a burn. The palm of the patient's own hand, which equals about 1 percent of the body's surface area, is compared with the patient's burn to estimate its size.

a memory aid in which the letters stand for elements of the past medical history: signs and symptoms, allergies, medications, pertinent past history, last oral intake, and events leading to the injury or illness.
building on what one already knows.

(SKAP-yuh-luh) the shoulder blade.

scene size-up

school age

steps taken when approaching the scene of an emergency call: checking scene safety, taking Standard Precautions, noting the mechanism of injury or nature of the patient's illness, determining the number of patients, and deciding what, if any, additional resources to call for.

stage of life from 6 to 12 years.
Scope of Practice

A set of regulations and ethical considerations that define the scope, or extent and limits, of the EMT's job.

Secondary Devices

Destructive devices, such as bombs, placed to be activated after an initial attack and timed to injure emergency responders and others who rush in to help care for those targeted by an initial attack.

Seizure

(SEE-zher) a sudden change in sensation, behavior, or movement. The most severe form of seizure produces violent muscle contractions called convulsions.

Shock

The body's inability to adequately circulate blood to the body's cells to supply them with oxygen and nutrients, which is a life-threatening condition. Also known as hypoperfusion.
Sickle cell anemia (SCA)

An inherited disease in which a genetic defect in the hemoglobin results in abnormal structure of the red blood cells.

Side effect

Any action of a drug other than the desired action.

Single incident command

Command organization in which a single agency controls all resources and operations.

Skeleton

The bones of the body.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skin</th>
<th>Skull</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the layer of tissue between the body and the external environment.</td>
<td>the bony structure of the head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stander</td>
<td>Small Intestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false or injurious information stated verbally.</td>
<td>the muscular tube between the stomach and the large intestine, divided into the duodenum, the jejunum, and the ileum, which receives partially digested food from the stomach and continues digestion. Nutrients are absorbed by the body through its walls.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sphygmomanometer**

**(SFIG-mo-mah-NOM-uh-ter)** the cuff and gauge used to measure blood pressure.

**Sphenous process**

**(SPI-nus)** the bony bump on a vertebra.

**Spleen**

an organ located in the left upper quadrant of the abdomen that acts as a blood filtration system and a reservoir for reserves of blood.

**Spontaneous abortion**

when the fetus and placenta deliver before the 28th week of pregnancy; commonly called a miscarriage.
Sprain

the stretching and tearing of ligaments.

Staging area

the area where ambulances are parked and other resources are held until needed.

Staging supervisor

person responsible for overseeing ambulances and ambulance personnel at a multiple-casualty incident.

Standard of care

for an EMT providing care for a specific patient in a specific situation, the care that would be expected to be provided by an EMT with similar training when caring for a patient in a similar situation.
Standard Precautions

a strict form of infection control that is based on the assumption that all blood and other body fluids are infectious.

Standing orders

a policy or protocol issued by a Medical Director that authorizes EMTs and others to perform particular skills in certain situations.

Status Epilepticus

(STAT-tus or STAT-us ep-i-LEP-ti-kus) a prolonged seizure or situation when a person suffers two or more convulsive seizures without regaining full consciousness.

Sternum

(STER-num) the breastbone.
born dead.

(Stoma) a permanent surgical opening in the neck through which the patient breathes.

muscular sac between the esophagus and the small intestine where digestion of food begins.

muscle injury resulting from overstretching or overexertion of the muscle.
strategies

broad general plans designed to achieve desired outcomes.

stress

a state of physical and/or psychological arousal to a stimulus.

stretch receptors

sensors in blood vessels that identify internal pressure.

stridor

(STRI-dor) a high pitched sound generated from partially obstructed air flow in the upper airway.
stroke

A condition of altered function caused when an artery in the brain is blocked or ruptured, disrupting the supply of oxygenated blood or causing bleeding into the brain. Formerly called a cerebrovascular accident (CVA).

stroke volume

The amount of blood ejected from the heart in one contraction.

subcutaneous layers

(sub-ku-TAY-nee-us) the layers of fat and soft tissues found below the dermis.

sucking chest wound

An open chest wound in which air is "sucked" into the chest cavity.
sucking reflex

when you stroke a hungry infant's lips, he will start sucking.

suctioning

(SUK-shun-ing) use of a vacuum device to remove blood, vomitus, and other secretions or foreign materials from the airway.

sudden death

suffix

a cardiac arrest that occurs within 2 hours of the onset of symptoms. The patient may have no prior symptoms of coronary artery disease.

word part added to the end of a root or word to complete its meaning.
a burn that involves only the epidermis, the outer layer of the skin. It is characterized by reddening of the skin and perhaps some swelling. A common example is a sunburn. Also called a first-degree burn.

toward the head (e.g., the chest is superior to the abdomen).

lying on the back.

dizziness and a drop in blood pressure caused when the mother is in a supine position and the weight of the uterus, infant, placenta, and amniotic fluid compress the inferior vena cava, reducing return of blood to the heart and cardiac output.
Syncope

(SIN-koh-pee) fainting.

Systolic blood pressure

The pressure created when the heart contracts and forces blood out into the arteries.

Tachycardia

(TAK-uh-KAR-de-uh) a rapid pulse; any pulse rate above 100 beats per minute.

Systemic vascular resistance (SVR)

The pressure in the peripheral blood vessels that the heart must overcome in order to pump blood into the system.
specific operational actions to accomplish assigned tasks.

(TAR-sulz) the ankle bones.

sharp pain that feels as if body tissues are being torn apart.

the infant’s reaction to his environment.
Temporal bone (TEM-po-ral) bone that forms part of the side of the skull and floor of the cranial cavity. There is a right and a left temporal bone.

Temporomandibular joint (TEM-po-ro-mand-DIB-yuh-lar) the movable joint formed between the mandible and the temporal bone, also called the TMJ.

tendon tissue that connects muscle to bone.

Tension pneumothorax a type of pneumothorax in which air that enters the chest cavity is prevented from escaping.
terrorism

the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives (U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, definition).


tests

(TES-tees) the male organ of reproduction used for the production of sperm.

thorax

(THOR-ax) the chest.

thorax

(a vibration felt on gentle palpation, such as that which typically occurs within an arterial-venous fistula.)
Thrombus

(THROM-bus) a clot formed of blood and plaque attached to the inner wall of an artery or vein.

Thyroid cartilage

(THY-roid) the wing-shaped plate of cartilage that sits anterior to the larynx and forms the Adam's apple.

Tibia

(TIB-e-uh) the medial and larger bone of the lower leg.

Tidal volume

the volume of air moved in one cycle of breathing.
Toddler phase

Stage of life from 12 to 36 months.

(TON-ik-KLON-ik) a generalized seizure in which the patient loses consciousness and has jerking movements of paired muscle groups.

Torso

The trunk of the body; the body without the head and the extremities.

Tort

A civil, not a criminal, offense; an action or injury caused by negligence from which a lawsuit may arise.
Tourniquet: a device used for bleeding control that constricts all blood flow to and from an extremity.

Toxin: a poisonous substance secreted by bacteria, plants, or animals.

Trachea: (TRAY-ke-uh) the "windpipe"; the structure that connects the pharynx to the lungs.

Tracheostomy: (TRAY-ke-OSS-toe-me) a surgical incision held open by a metal or plastic tube.
A device designed to be placed over a stoma or tracheostomy tube to provide supplemental oxygen.

A splint that applies constant pull along the length of a lower extremity to help stabilize the fractured bone and to reduce muscle spasm in the limb. Traction splints are used primarily on femoral shaft fractures.

Person responsible for communicating with sector officers and hospitals to manage transportation of patients to hospitals from a multiple-casualty incident.

A patient suffering from one or more physical injuries.
Trauma score

A system of evaluating trauma patients according to a numerical rating system to determine the severity of the patient’s trauma.

Treatment area

The area in which patients are treated at a multiple-casualty incident.

Treatment supervisor

Person responsible for overseeing treatment of patients who have been triaged at a multiple-casualty incident.

Trendelenburg position

(trend-EL-un-berg) A position in which the patient’s feet and legs are higher than the head.
changes in a patient's condition over time, such as slowing respirations or rising pulse rate, that may show improvement or deterioration, and that can be shown by documenting repeated assessments.

the process of quickly assessing patients at a multiple-casualty incident and assigning each a priority for receiving treatment; from a French word meaning "to sort.

the area where secondary triage takes place at a multiple-casualty incident.

the person responsible for overseeing triage at a multiple-casualty incident.
color-coded tag indicating the priority group to which a patient has been assigned.

concept developed from an orderly, predictable environment versus a disorderly, irregular environment.

*(UL-nah)* the medial bone of the forearm.

*(um-BIL-i-kal)* the fetal structure containing the blood vessels that carry blood to and from the placenta.
command organization in which several agencies work independently but cooperatively.

a bulky dressing.

untoward effect

uppers

(un-TORD) an effect of a medication in addition to its desired effect that may be potentially harmful to the patient.

stimulants such as amphetamines that affect the central nervous system to excite the user.
uterus

urinary catheter

urethra

ureters
ventilation/perfusion match. This implies that the alveoli are supplied with enough air and that the air in the alveoli is matched with sufficient blood in the pulmonary capillaries to permit optimum exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

\( \text{vuh-Ji-na} \) the female organ of reproduction used for both sexual intercourse and as an exit from the uterus for the fetus.

a structure that opens and closes to permit the flow of a fluid in only one direction.

any blood vessel returning blood to the heart.
Vena cava: (VE-ne KA-ve) the superior vena cava and the inferior vena cava. These two major veins return blood from the body to the right atrium. (Venae cavae is plural, vena cava singular.)

Venom: a toxin (poison) produced by certain animals such as snakes, spiders, and some marine life forms.

Venous bleeding: bleeding from a vein, which is characterized by dark red or maroon blood and a steady, easy-to-control flow.

Ventilation: the process of moving gases (oxygen and carbon dioxide) between inhaled air and the pulmonary circulation of blood.
a device that breathes for a patient.

referring to the front of the body. A synonym for anterior.

(VEN-tri-kulz) the two lower chambers of the heart. There is a right ventricle (which sends oxygen-poor blood to the lungs) and a left ventricle (which sends oxygen-rich blood to the body).

(ven-TRIK-u-lar fib-ri-LAY-shun) a condition in which the heart's electrical impulses are disorganized, preventing the heart muscle from contracting normally.
Ventricular Tachycardia (V-tach) is a condition in which the heartbeat is quite rapid; if rapid enough, ventricular tachycardia will not allow the heart's chambers to fill with enough blood between beats to produce blood flow sufficient to meet the body's needs.

A face mask and reservoir bag device that delivers specific concentrations of oxygen by mixing oxygen with inhaled air.

Vein

Vertebrae

(VEN-yul) the smallest kind of vein.

(VERT-uh-bray) the bones of the spinal column (singular vertebra).
**Visceral pain**

A poorly localized, dull, or diffuse pain that arises from the abdominal organs, or viscera.

**Vital signs**

Outward signs of what is going on inside the body, including respiration; pulse; skin color, temperature, and condition (plus capillary refill in infants and children); pupils; and blood pressure.

**Volatile chemicals**

Vaporizing compounds, such as cleaning fluid, that are breathed in by the abuser to produce a "high."

**Voluntary muscle**

Muscle that can be consciously controlled.
area where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support take place; it includes control points for the access corridor and thus assists in reducing the spread of contamination.

chilling caused by conduction of heat from the body when the body or clothing is wet.

the unit of measurement of the output power of a radio.

packaging or producing a material, such as a chemical, biological, or radiological agent, so that it can be used as a weapon; for example, by dissemination in a bomb detonation or as an aerosol sprayed over an area or introduced into a ventilation system.
Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are weapons, devices, or agents intended to cause widespread harm and/or fear among a population.

White blood cells are components of the blood. They produce substances that help the body fight infection.

Wind chill is chilling caused by convection of heat from the body in the presence of air currents.

Withdrawing refers to alcohol or drug withdrawal in which the patient's body reacts severely when deprived of the abused substance.
(Zi-foid) the inferior portion of the sternum.

able to move through the animal-human barrier; transmissible from animals to humans.

zygomatic arches

(Zi-go-MAT-ik) bones that form the structure of the cheeks.