



Standard Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) To Manage Shock¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum national standard for training in the management of shock in patients of all ages by the emergency medical technician (basic).

1.2 This guide is one of a series which together describe the minimum training standard for the emergency medical technician (basic).

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

F 1031 Practice for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)²

F 1219 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Initial and Detailed Assessment²

F 1285 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Examination Techniques²

F 1328 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Prepare Patients for Medical Transportation²

F 1329 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) in Basic Anatomy and Physiology²

F 1418 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) in Roles and Responsibilities²

F 1420 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Management Techniques²

F 1421 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Manage Obstetrical Emergencies²

2.2 Other Documents:

Standards and Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care ³(see latest edition)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *Management*—refers to the suggested step(s) that constitute action taken by the emergency medical technician (basic) for a patient in need of assistance due to a real or perceived traumatic or medical condition.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide establishes the minimum national standard for training the emergency medical technician (basic) in the suggested management of shock in patients of all ages. This guide does not preclude additions to or modifications of the management of shock as authorized by local medical direction.

4.2 This guide shall be used by those who wish to identify the minimum training standard for the emergency medical technician (basic) as it relates to suggested management of shock.

4.3 This guide shall be used as the basis to revise Practice F 1031.

4.4 Every person who is identified as an emergency medical technician (basic) shall have been trained to this standard.

4.5 This guide does not stand alone and must be used in conjunction with all referenced documents cited in Section 2.

4.6 The management steps outlined in this document are not necessarily in sequential order and they will often vary with the patient's age, size, location and condition.

5. General Guidelines

5.1 All emergency medical technicians (basic) shall be trained to:

5.1.1 Reassess all patients frequently and at least prior to and following every therapeutic intervention.

5.1.2 Manage patient problems in the order of their severity.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.02.

³ Reprinted from *Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 6, 1986, Vol 255, pp. 2842-3044 (latest edition).

5.1.3 Immediately transport patients with life-threatening conditions that cannot be resolved in the field in accordance with local protocol.

5.1.4 Treat all patients in a professional, caring and reassuring manner.

5.1.5 Transfer care of the patient to either ALS providers responding to the scene or an appropriate hospital or other medical facility in accordance with local protocols.

5.1.6 Report the patient's chief complaint and status to the receiving hospital or medical control as soon as possible without compromising patient care.

5.1.7 Transport patient expeditiously and safely.

5.1.8 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall provide all pertinent patient information to the receiving facility at the receiving facility.

5.1.9 Upon completion of patient care responsibilities, prepare the ambulance or equipment, or both, and supplies to be ready to care for the next patient.

6. Management of Patients in Shock

6.1 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall be trained to provide emergency care for the patient in shock as

noted below. The selection and sequence of the components are dictated by the patient's condition and existing circumstances.

6.2 Administer high concentration oxygen.

6.3 Assist ventilations as necessary.

6.4 If necessary, control bleeding by any one or combination of the following:

6.4.1 direct pressure on site of bleeding,

6.4.2 elevation of the injured extremity, and

6.4.3 pneumatic anti-shock garment (PASG) inflation in accordance with local medical protocols.

6.5 Place the patient in the supine position with lower limbs elevated if not contraindicated.

6.6 Do not allow the patient to eat or drink.

6.7 Prevent loss of body heat.

7. Keywords

7.1 emergency medical technician (basic); EMT; shock; training

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