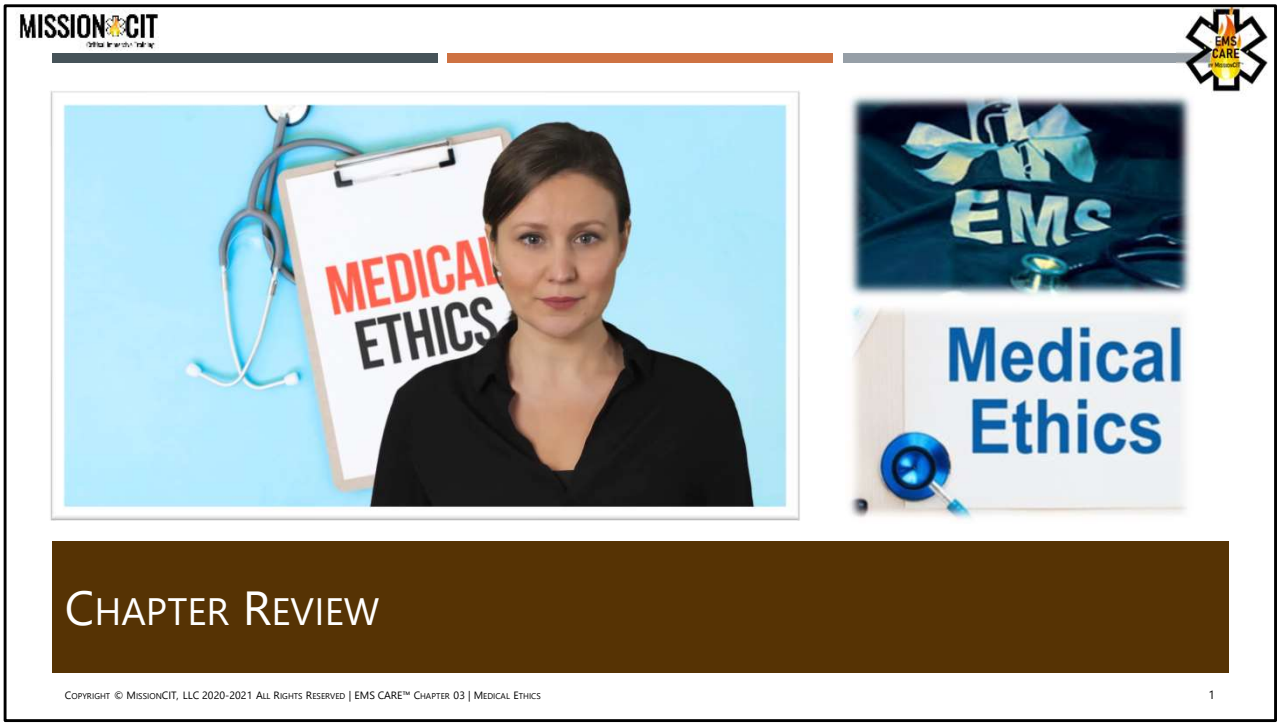


Welcome to the chapter review section, where we will quickly recap this chapter on Medical Ethics.

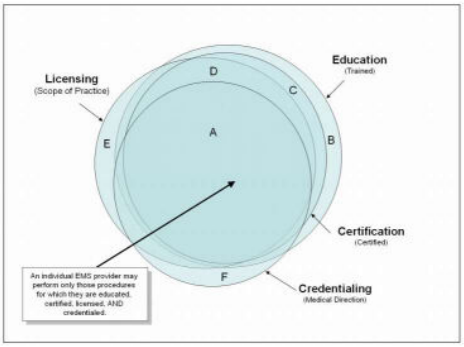
Good Studying.

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LESSON 1 – SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Refers to legal and ethical considerations
- Talks about roles and responsibilities
- Federal, state, and local laws
- Scope of practice limited to prehospital care
  - ✓ Understand local laws and protocols before providing treatment
  - ✓ Reduce risk of legal action
- Be quick in assessing a patient
- Decide course of treatment

The Relationship among education, certification, scope of practice, and medical oversight.



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In the first lesson, we saw about scope of practice for EMTs in the context of medical ethics and legal responsibilities. To recollect, scope of practice refers to the legal and ethical considerations that limit the role and responsibilities of an EMT on the job. This is determined by the federal, state, and even local laws and procedures, that lay out what an EMT can and can't do in terms of skills and procedures.

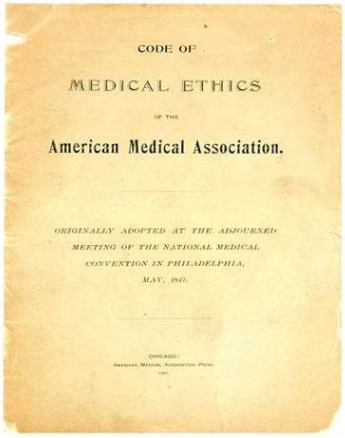
The scope of practice for EMTs is limited to prehospital care and since your actions are limited, make sure you

understand the local laws and protocols before providing a specific course of treatment to reduce the risk of legal action. You are required to have certain hours of training followed by hands-on experience on how to handle patients across different scenarios. Since your work may not always be in a safe environment, understand the risks thoroughly before you start treatment. Safety of self and your partner is always crucial.

As an EMT, your work is time-sensitive and protocol-driven. You must be quick in assessing a patient and decide the next course of treatment. You also have to consider medical and legal ethics while making these decisions, so be familiar with these ethics, and implement them wisely.

Lesson 2 – AMA Code of Ethics

- Nine principles of AMA code:
  - ✓ Ethics of patient-physician relationship
  - ✓ Ethics of consent, communication, and decision-making
  - ✓ Ethics of privacy, confidentiality, and medical records
  - ✓ Ethics of genetics and reproductive medicine
  - ✓ Ethics of caring patients at the end of life
  - ✓ Ethics of organ procurement and transplantation
  - ✓ Ethics of medical research and innovation
  - ✓ Ethics of professional self-regulation
  - ✓ Ethics of inter-professional relationships



1847 Edition

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Since its adoption in 1847, the AMA Code of Medical Ethics has articulated the values to which physicians commit themselves as members of the medical profession. The nine Principles of Medical Ethics are the primary component of the Code. These components describe the core ethical responsibilities of the medical profession as a whole. Let's explore the nine principles briefly:

- Ethics of patient-physician relationship is the trust and relationship between the patient and the physician. This trust gives physicians the ethical responsibility to put the patients' welfare over the physician's self-interest.
- Ethics of consent, communication, and decision-making states that a physician must always provide accurate information to the patients, to enable them to make appropriate decisions about their medical treatment.
- Ethics of privacy, confidentiality, and medical records articulates that patient privacy should be the top priority and at no point, you should share any information with others except by explicit consent from the patient.
- Ethics of genetics and reproductive medicine dictates that you strike a balance between the ethical challenges of confidentiality and the well-being of other family members. Physicians must value the well-being of the patient and provide the necessary support for patients who are willing to have a child but are unable to do so naturally.

- According to the Ethics of caring patients at the end of life, you must work with such patients to define their goals for care.
- Ethics of organ procurement and transplantation necessitates protecting the interest of both the living and the deceased donors.
- Ethics of medical research and innovation means protecting the rights, safety, identity, and welfare of those who participate in it.
- Ethics of professional self-regulation ensures that physician's actions don't detract them from their primary role of providing quality care.
- Ethics of inter-professional relationships declares that physicians should commit themselves to high standards of ethics in their relationship with fellow health professionals.

Next, we will talk about ethics for prehospital care.

Lesson 3 – Ethics for Prehospital Care

- Ethics – Philosophy of right and wrong
- Morality – Code of conduct
- Bioethics – Address issues
- Autonomy – Freedom of patient to determine their care
- Confidentiality – Protecting health information of patients
- Beneficence – Appropriate care given to patients
- Non-maleficence – First, do no harm
- Justice – Caring for patients without discrimination
- Provide basic human dignity and respect to patients
- Being honest and following rules to maintain integrity
- Advocacy – Act on behalf of your patient



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As an EMT, you're expected to have an advanced sense of ethics, morality, and bioethics, and abide by them. Ethics is the philosophy of right and wrong, morality is the code of conduct that affects your character and conscience and finally, bioethics addresses issues that come up while practicing healthcare.

Other important ethics to note are patient autonomy, confidentiality, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, respect, honesty & integrity, and advocacy. To briefly explain each of these, autonomy is the freedom that patients have to determine their care. Confidentiality is your responsibility to protect the health information of your patients. Beneficence means the appropriate care given to patients that will best enhance the positive outcome. Non-maleficence means 'doing no harm'. Justice is caring for patients under your responsibility without discriminating against their skin color, race, language, sex, and socioeconomic status. You have to provide basic human dignity and respect to your patients, regardless of their medical condition and state of affairs. Being honest with your patient and follow the rules to maintain integrity regardless of any pressure is also an essential principle. And finally, advocacy is an ethical responsibility where you act on behalf of your patient.

Next, we will talk specifically about legal aspects.

Lesson 4 – Legal Aspects

- Seeking permission from patient to:
  - ✓ Assess, transport and provide care
- Refusal of care
- DNR orders
- Negligence
- Abandonment
- Other offenses:
  - ✓ Assault, battery, kidnapping and false imprisonment
- Good Samaritan laws protect you



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While ethics help you to provide better care, not following them doesn't entail any legal penalties. Here are some aspects that can help avoid facing any penalties or legal charges against you. In particular, taking permission from the patient to assess, transport, and provide care. Understanding refusal of care and DNR orders of patients. Negligence is another important legal liability, never fail to provide an established standard of care. Also never abandon your patient until the care is handed over to another healthcare provider. Offenses that can lead to legal consequences are assault, battery, kidnapping, and false imprisonment.

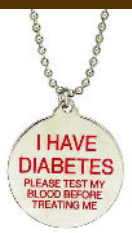
Though there are many legal aspects you need to watch out for, Good Samaritan laws protect you from legal liabilities if you have acted in good faith. Always communicate and report authentic information only.

If you end up in the unfortunate situation of facing legal consequences, you may have to go to a court of law. If you are a witness, remain neutral and review the run report you submitted.

Next we will talk about certain special situations.

Lesson 5 – Special situations

- Identifying patients through medical devices:
  - ✓ Necklaces, bracelets and cards
- Organ donors
- Safe haven laws
  - ✓ Drop off an infant at local police, fire or EMS station
- Child Protection Services
- Maintain accurate patient records









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In your course of duty, you will face special situations where you will identify patients through medical devices such as necklaces, bracelets, and cards. These devices will provide you information about the patient's history. Another situation might be when you deal with organ donors. Donor cards, information from family members, or even a driver's license can provide you information if the deceased patient is an organ donor.

Safe haven laws allow individuals to drop off an infant at the local police, fire, or EMS station and different states have different guidelines, be aware of them. Similarly, Child Protection Services can be contacted if there are children who can't be protected by their parents. Finally, maintain accurate patient records and note particular incidents when reporting is mandatory.

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LESSON 6 – COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Operational challenges:
  - ✓ Staying informed about spread of virus
  - ✓ Communicating updates and actions
  - ✓ Wearing PPE
  - ✓ Having a designated response team
  - ✓ Communicating about supply
  - ✓ Seeking help when exhausted
  - ✓ Staying physically and mentally fit
  - ✓ Follow protective measures
- Follow ethical aspects



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In this last lesson, we discussed the different ways to handle operational challenges caused by Covid-19. Here they are, staying informed about the spread of COVID-19, communicating updates and actions to co-workers and patients, wearing your PPE at all times, having a designated response team to make quick decisions, communicating about the current supply of medications and PPEs, seeking help when exhausted, and staying physically and mentally healthy. You should also follow protective measures while handling sick patients, and provide safety tips to your patients.

Finally, watch out for the ethical aspects you need to consider. Your primary duty is to protect the health of the community, encourage patients to adhere voluntarily to quarantine and isolation, inform patients and ask them to comply with the mandatory reporting requirements, educate patients about the situation and the possible medical harm, and report any misconduct of co-workers to the appropriate authority.

With this, we come to the end of the chapter review. Good luck with the quiz.