Pediatric Emergencies

National EMS Education Standard Competencies

Special Patient Populations
Applies a fundamental knowledge of the growth, development, and aging and assessment findings to provide basic emergency care and transportation for a patient with special needs.

Patients With Special Challenges
› Recognizing and reporting abuse and neglect (pp 1268–1271 and Chapter 35, Geriatric Emergencies)
Health care implications of
› Abuse (pp 1268–1271 and Chapter 35, Geriatric Emergencies)
› Neglect (pp 1268, 1270 and Chapter 35, Geriatric Emergencies)
› Homelessness (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Poverty (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Bariatrics (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Technology dependent (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Hospice/terminally ill (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Tracheostomy care/dysfunction (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Home care (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Sensory deficit/loss (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)
› Developmental disability (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)

Pediatrics
Age-related assessment findings, and age-related assessment and treatment modifications for pediatric-specific major diseases and/or emergencies
› Upper airway obstruction (pp 1228–1232, 1240–1243)
› Lower airway reactive disease (pp 1228–1232, 1240–1245)
› Respiratory distress/failure/arrest (pp 1232, 1240–1253)
› Shock (pp 1230, 1232, 1253–1255)
› Seizures (pp 1255–1256, 1260–1261)
› Sudden infant death syndrome (pp 1271–1274)
› Gastrointestinal disease (pp 1257–1258)

Trauma
Applies fundamental knowledge to provide basic emergency care and transportation based on assessment findings for an acutely injured patient.

Special Considerations in Trauma
Recognition and management of trauma in
› Pregnant patient (Chapter 33, Obstetrics and Neonatal Care)
› Pediatric patient (pp 1226–1240, 1261–1267)
› Geriatric patient (Chapter 35, Geriatric Emergencies)
Pathophysiology, assessment, and management of trauma in the
› Pregnant patient (Chapter 33, Obstetrics and Neonatal Care)
› Pediatric patient (pp 1226–1240, 1261–1267)
› Geriatric patient (Chapter 35, Geriatric Emergencies)
› Cognitively impaired patient (Chapter 36, Patients With Special Challenges)

Knowledge Objectives
1. Explain some of the challenges inherent in providing emergency care to pediatric patients and why effective communication with both the patient and his or her family members is critical to a successful outcome. (p 1218)
2. Discuss the physical and cognitive developmental stages of an infant, including health risks, signs that may indicate illness, and patient assessment. (pp 1219–1220)
3. Discuss the physical and cognitive developmental stages of a toddler, including health risks, signs that may indicate illness, and patient assessment. (pp 1220–1221)
4. Discuss the physical and cognitive developmental stages of a preschool-age child, including health risks, signs that may indicate illness, and patient assessment. (pp 1221–1222)
5. Discuss the physical and cognitive developmental stages of a school-age child, including health risks, signs that may indicate illness, and patient assessment. (p 1222)
6. Discuss the physical and cognitive developmental stages of an adolescent, including health risks, patient assessment, and privacy issues. (pp 1222–1223)
7. Describe differences in the anatomy and physiology of the pediatric patient compared to the adult patient and their implications for EMTs, with a focus on the following body systems: respiratory, circulatory, nervous, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, and integumentary. (pp 1223–1226)
8. Describe differences in the pathophysiology of the pediatric patient compared to the adult patient and their implications for EMTs, with a focus on the following body systems: respiratory, circulatory, nervous, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, and integumentary. (pp 1224–1226)

9. Explain the steps in the primary assessment of a pediatric patient, including the elements of the pediatric assessment triangle (PAT), hands-on ABCs, transport decision considerations, and privacy issues. (pp 1227–1236)

10. Explain the steps in the secondary assessment of a pediatric patient, including what EMTs should look for related to different body areas and the method of injury. (pp 1236–1240)

11. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient in respiratory distress, including the different causes of pediatric respiratory emergencies, the signs and symptoms of increased work of breathing, and the difference between respiratory distress and respiratory failure. (pp 1228–1229, 1240–1253)

12. List the possible causes of an upper and a lower airway obstruction in a pediatric patient and the steps in the management of foreign body airway obstruction. (pp 1241–1243)

13. Describe asthma, its possible causes, signs and symptoms, and steps in the management of a pediatric patient who is experiencing an asthma attack. (pp 1243–1244)

14. Explain how to determine the correct size of an airway adjunct intended for a pediatric patient during an emergency. (pp 1245–1249)

15. List the different oxygen delivery devices that are available for providing oxygen to a pediatric patient, including the indications for the use of each and precautions EMTs must take to ensure the patient’s safety. (pp 1249–1253)

16. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient who is in shock (hypoperfusion), including common causes, signs, and symptoms. (pp 1253–1255)

17. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient with an altered mental status, including common causes, signs, and symptoms. (p 1255)

18. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient who has experienced a seizure, including the different types of seizures, common causes, signs, and symptoms. (pp 1255–1256)

19. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient with meningitis, including common causes, signs, symptoms, and special precautions. (pp 1256–1257)

20. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient who is experiencing a gastrointestinal emergency, including common causes, signs, and symptoms. (pp 1257–1258)

21. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient who has been poisoned, including common sources of poisoning, signs, and symptoms. (pp 1258–1259)

22. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient who is dehydrated, including how to gauge the severity of dehydration based on key signs and symptoms. (pp 1259–1260)

23. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient who is experiencing a fever emergency, including common causes. (pp 1260–1261)

24. Describe the emergency care of a pediatric patient who has experienced a drowning emergency, including common causes, signs, and symptoms. (p 1261)

25. Discuss the common causes of pediatric trauma emergencies, including how to differentiate between injury patterns in adults, infants, and children. (pp 1261–1267)

26. Discuss the significance of burns in pediatric patients, their most common causes, and general guidelines EMTs should follow when assessing patients who have sustained burns. (pp 1266–1267)

27. Explain the four triage categories used in the JumpSTART system for pediatric patients. (pp 1267–1268)

28. Describe child abuse and neglect and its possible indicators, including the medical and legal responsibilities of EMTs when caring for a pediatric patient who is a possible victim of child abuse. (pp 1268–1271)

29. Discuss sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), including its risk factors, patient assessment, and special management considerations related to the death of an infant patient. (pp 1271–1272)

30. Discuss the responsibilities of EMTs when communicating with a family or loved ones following the death of a child. (pp 1272–1273)

31. Discuss some positive ways EMTs may cope with the death of a pediatric patient and why managing posttraumatic stress is important for all health care professionals. (p 1273)

Skills Objectives

1. Demonstrate how to position the airway in a pediatric patient. (p 1231, Skill Drill 34-1)

2. Demonstrate how to palpate the pulse and estimate the capillary refill time in a pediatric patient. (pp 1232–1233)

3. Demonstrate how to use a length-based resuscitation tape to size equipment appropriately for a pediatric patient. (p 1246)

4. Demonstrate how to insert an oropharyngeal airway in a pediatric patient. (pp 1245–1247, Skill Drill 34-2)

5. Demonstrate how to insert a nasopharyngeal airway in a pediatric patient. (pp 1247–1249, Skill Drill 34-3)

6. Demonstrate how to administer blow-by oxygen to a pediatric patient. (p 1249)

7. Demonstrate how to apply a nasal cannula to a pediatric patient. (pp 1249–1250)

8. Demonstrate how to apply a nonrebreathing mask to a pediatric patient. (p 1250)

9. Demonstrate how to assist ventilation of an infant or child using a bag-valve mask (BVM). (pp 1250–1251)

10. Demonstrate how to perform one-person BVM ventilation on a pediatric patient. (pp 1251–1252, Skill Drill 34-4)

11. Demonstrate how to perform two-person BVM ventilation on a pediatric patient. (p 1253)

12. Demonstrate how to immobilize a pediatric patient who has been involved in a trauma emergency. (pp 1263–1264, Skill Drill 34-5)

13. Demonstrate how to immobilize a pediatric patient in a car seat who has been involved in a trauma emergency. (pp 1264–1265, Skill Drill 34-6)