

Determining if an EMR meets ETT objectives

An excerpt from the National Scope of Practice model (available at www.ems.gov) follows this paragraph. Note that the required skills of the EMR do not include splinting or spinal care beyond manual stabilization. The ETT Instructor should assess the competencies of the EMR against ETT objectives and minimum skills to ensure they are met.

From the National Scope of Practice Model:

Emergency Medical Responder

The primary focus of the Emergency Medical Responder is to initiate immediate lifesaving care to critical patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide life saving interventions while awaiting additional EMS response and to assist higher level personnel at the scene and during transport. Emergency Medical Responders function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Emergency Medical Responders perform basic interventions with minimal equipment.

Educational Requirements: One of the eligibility requirements for licensure at this level requires successful completion of an accredited Emergency Medical Responder training program.

Description of the Profession

The Emergency Medical Responder's scope of practice includes simple skills focused on lifesaving interventions for critical patients. Typically, the Emergency Medical Responder renders on-scene emergency care while awaiting additional EMS response and may serve as part of the transporting crew, but not as the primary care giver.

In many communities, Emergency Medical Responders provide a mechanism to increase the likelihood that trained personnel and lifesaving equipment can be rapidly deployed to serious emergencies. In all cases, Emergency Medical Responders are part of a tiered response system. Emergency Medical Responders work alongside other EMS and health care professionals as an integral part of the emergency care team.

The Emergency Medical Responder's scope of practice includes simple, non-invasive interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with acute out-of-hospital medical and traumatic emergencies. Emergency care is based on assessment findings.

Additionally, the Emergency Medical Responder provides care designed to minimize secondary injury and comfort the patient and family while awaiting additional EMS resources.

A major difference between the lay person and the Emergency Medical Responder is the "duty to act" as part of an organized EMS response.

In some systems, Emergency Medical Responders serve as a part of the crew on transporting EMS units; however, the EMR is not intended to be the highest level caregiver in such

situations. They must function with an EMT or higher level personnel during the transportation of emergency patients. The scope of practice model of an EMR is limited to simple skills that are effective and can be performed safely in an out-of-hospital setting with medical oversight.

After initiating care, the Emergency Medical Responder transfers care to higher level personnel. The Emergency Medical Responder serves as part of an EMS response system that ensures a progressive increase in the level of assessment and care.

Psychomotor Skills

The following are the minimum psychomotor skills of the EMR:

- Airway and Breathing
 - Insertion of airway adjuncts intended to go into the oropharynx
 - Use of positive pressure ventilation devices such as the bag-valve-mask
 - Suction of the upper airway
 - Supplemental oxygen therapy
- Pharmacological interventions
 - Use of unit dose auto-injectors for the administration of life saving medications intended for self or peer rescue in hazardous materials situations (MARK I, etc.)
- Medical/Cardiac Care
 - Use of an automated external defibrillator
- Trauma Care
 - Manual stabilization of suspected cervical spine injuries
 - Manual stabilization of extremity fractures
 - Bleeding control
 - Emergency moves