

Knowledge Questions

1. Select the correct statement about the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA).
 - A. A patient must be treated for any condition if he/she presents to an emergency department.
 - B. EMTALA was enacted because of concerns that hospitals were inappropriately transferring critically ill patients to other hospitals.
 - C. A medical screening exam is required for anyone who presents to an emergency department.
 - D. None of the above.
2. When a patient is being transferred, what patient information should be communicated?
 - A. Detailed History of Present Illness
 - B. Complete Past Medical History
 - C. Thorough Physical Exam
 - D. Interventions Performed & Response to Therapies
3. A Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport team has the capability to do all of the following EXCEPT?
 - A. Administer Oxygen
 - B. Administer Albuterol
 - C. Obtain IV Access
 - D. Immobilize
4. How does a pneumothorax impact air transport?
 - A. At high altitude, the high pressure may cause expansion of the pneumothorax.
 - B. It is best to avoid high altitude for 6 months after pneumothorax resolution.
 - C. Patients with a pneumothorax should avoid helicopter transportation.
 - D. Patients with a pneumothorax may be transported in a fixed-wing plane if the cabin is pressurized to sea level.
5. A critical care transport team may include which of the following?
 - A. EMT or Special Care Transport Paramedic
 - B. Critical Care Transport Nurse
 - C. Respiratory Therapist
 - D. Physician
 - E. All of the Above
6. Which mode of transportation is correctly matched with its capability?
 - A. Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport — Intubate
 - B. Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport — Administer IV Antibiotics
 - C. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport — Administer Vasoactive Medications
 - D. Critical Care Transport — Manage Ventilator

Knowledge Answers

1. C. EMTALA was enacted by Congress in 1986 because of concerns that emergency departments were refusing to treat or inappropriately transferring patients based on ability to pay (“patient dumping”). EMTALA asserts that hospitals must provide a medical screening exam to determine if an emergency medical condition exists. If an emergency medical condition exists, the patient must be treated and stabilized. If a hospital does not have the capability to treat the condition, an appropriate transfer to another hospital should be made.
2. D. When a patient is being transferred, key pertinent information must be communicated. This includes name, age, medical condition, vital signs, weight, pertinent physical exam findings, interventions performed, response to therapies, and condition updates.
3. C. Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport has the capability to administer oxygen, administer IV fluids, immobilize, and administer a limited selection of medications (albuterol, oral glucose, EpiPen). Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport has the capability to intubate, obtain IV access, and administer oral and IV medications.
4. D. At high altitude, the low pressure may cause expansion of a pneumothorax. It is best to avoid high altitude for 6 weeks after pneumothorax resolution. Helicopter transport is acceptable because it flies close to sea level. Fixed-wing plane transport is only acceptable if the cabin is pressurized to sea level.
5. E. A critical care transport team includes an EMT or special care transport paramedic and a critical care transport nurse (or nurses). In some situations, the team may also include a respiratory therapist and a physician.
6. D. Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport has the capability to administer oxygen, administer IV fluids, immobilize, and administer a limited selection of medications (albuterol, oral glucose, EpiPen). Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport has the capability to intubate, obtain IV access, and administer oral and IV medications. Critical Care Transport has the capability to monitor cardiac rhythms, administer vasoactive medications, and manage ventilators.