



# EMS Board Certification

*It's the Way to Go!!!*

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Terry.....GET READY!!!!!!





What's the Problem, Terry????

Gotten a little  
*NERVOUS*  
in your old age, hmmm?



# From Merriam-Webster

## Full Definition of SPECIALTY

*plural specialties*

## Origin of SPECIALTY

Middle English *specialte*, from Anglo-French *especialté*, from Late Latin *specialitat-*, *specialitas*, from Latin *specialis* special

First Known Use: 15th century

**1** : the state of being special, distinctive, or peculiar

**3** : something in which one specializes

# The History of Specialization

*To a certain extent, medical practitioners have always been specialized. According to Galen, specialization was common among Roman physicians. The particular system of modern medical specialties evolved gradually during the 19th century. Informal social recognition of medical specialization evolved before the formal legal system.*

# Critical Events Leading to EMS as a Specialty

*The Lessons Learned from War*

*1960: Safar et al describe CPR*

*1966: NAS and DOT*

*1967: First EMT Curriculum*

*1970: National Registry formed*

*1971: First Paramedic Curriculum*

*1972 – 1977: Johnny and Roy*

*1979: EM becomes a specialty*



# Critical Events Leading to EMS as a Specialty

*1980: First EM Boards given*

*1984: NAEMSP founded*

*1985: First NAEMSP national meeting*

*Late 80's: First EMS Med Director course*

*1990's and beyond: Advance of evidence*

*2000's and beyond: ROC, CARES, COMPASS*

*2010: EMS Medicine Sub-Specialty*

*2013: The First EMS Medicine Boards*



AMERICAN BOARD OF  
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[www.abem.org](http://www.abem.org)

SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION	ANESTHESIOLOGY CRITICAL CARE PAIN MEDICINE	PHIL, M.D. M.D. n, M.D. o, Jr., M.D. M.D.
SEARCH		
ABEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	OVERVIEW
PQRS MOC ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE PAYMENT	HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE	INITIAL CERTIFICATION
TUTORIALS	INTERNAL MEDICINE-CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE	EMS MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY	EMS FAQs
POLICY INDEX	PAIN MEDICINE	THE CORE CONTENT OF EMS MEDICINE



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## EMS - The Core Content of EMS Medicine

### The Core Content of EMS Medicine ([PDF](#)) ([Word](#))

The 2012 Core Content of Emergency Medical Services Medicine is published in Prehospital Emergency Care, posted online January 10, 2012:

Perina DG, Pons PT, Blackwell TH, et al.; for EMS Examination Task Force, American Board of Emergency Medicine; Harvey AL, Kowalenko T; for American Board of Emergency Medicine; and Buckendahl CW, O'Leary LS, Stokes M; for Alpine Testing Solutions. The core content of emergency medical services medicine. *Prehosp Emerg Care*. 2012;16(3):309-22. doi: 10.3109/10903127.2011.653517 Epub 2012 Jan 10.

The Core Content was developed by the EMS Examination Task Force of ABEM. The Core Content defines the content for the 2013 initial certification examination for the ABEM Subspecialty of EMS Medicine.



# The Core Content of EMS Medicine

The core content of emergency medical  
services medicine.

*Prehosp Emerg Care.* 2012;16(3):309-22.  
doi: 10.3109/10903127.2011.653517 Epub  
2012 Jan 10.

# The Core Content of EMS Medicine

[https://www.abem.org/public/docs/  
default-source/publication-documents/  
ems-core-content-v1-4D8277F899811.pdf?  
sfvrsn=2](https://www.abem.org/public/docs/default-source/publication-documents/ems-core-content-v1-4D8277F899811.pdf?sfvrsn=2)

# The Core Content of EMS Medicine

*[www.doctorfowler.com/www/afiles/  
emscorecompetencies2016.pdf](http://www.doctorfowler.com/www/afiles/emscorecompetencies2016.pdf)*





# The Core Content of EMS Medicine<sup>3</sup>

	ACGME <sup>4</sup> and ABMS <sup>5</sup> Core Competencies					
	Patient Care	Medical Knowledge	Practice-based learning	Professionalism	Interpersonal Skills	System-based Practice
<b>1.0 CLINICAL ASPECTS OF EMS MEDICINE</b>						
<b>1.1 TIME/LIFE-CRITICAL CONDITIONS</b>	X	X	X			X
<b>1.1.1 Cardiac Arrest</b>	X	X			X	
1.1.1.1 General management	X	X			X	
1.1.1.2 Resuscitate in the field vs. transport	X	X	X			X
1.1.1.3 Post-resuscitation care	X	X	X			X
<b>1.1.2 Airway Compromise/ Respiratory Failure</b>	X	X				
1.1.2.1 Devices for securing airway	X	X				
1.1.2.2 Portable ventilator management	X	X				
1.1.2.3 Pros and cons of drug-assisted intubation	X	X				
1.1.2.4 Tracheotomy complications	X	X	X			
<b>1.1.3 Hypotension and Shock</b>	X	X				
1.1.3.1 Diagnosis with limited ancillary testing	X	X				
<b>1.1.4 Altered Mental Status</b>	X	X				

	ACGME <sup>4</sup> and ABMS <sup>5</sup> Core Competencies					
	Patient Care	Medical Knowledge	Practice-based Learning	Professionalism	Interpersonal Skills	System-based Practice
<b>2.0 MEDICAL OVERSIGHT OF EMS</b>						
<b>2.1 MEDICAL OVERSIGHT</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>2.1.1 Medical Oversight of EMS Systems</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.1.1.1 Direct medical oversight	X	X		X	X	X
2.1.1.1.1 Provision of direct patient care	X	X				
2.1.1.1.2 Physician directed care via radio or phone	X	X		X	X	X
2.1.1.1.3 Physician directed care in person	X	X		X	X	X
2.1.1.1.4 Telemedicine	X				X	X
2.1.1.2 Indirect medical oversight	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.1.1.2.1 Evidence guided development of medical care protocols	X	X	X		X	X
2.1.1.2.2 Quality improvement programs	X	X	X		X	X
2.1.1.2.3 Determination of medical necessity in the field	X	X	X		X	X
2.1.1.3 Assessment of provider competence and fitness for duty	X			X	X	X
<b>2.1.2 Legal Issues</b>	X			X	X	X
2.1.2.1 Definition of a patient	X			X	X	X
2.1.2.2 Mandatory reporting issues	X	X		X	X	X
2.1.2.3 Determination and/or pronouncement of death	X	X		X	X	X
2.1.2.4 Capacity to refuse care	X	X		X	X	X
2.1.2.4.1 Understand the elements of informed consent and informed refusal	X	X	X	X	X	
2.1.2.4.2 Understand the difference between capacity and competence	X	X	X	X	X	
2.1.2.5. Federal regulations impacting EMS						X

# Why Should We Take the Boards?

- ✧ Standardizing of EMS systems
- ✧ Establishing a common vocabulary
  - ✧ Constant state of study
- ✧ Running an EMS system is not necessarily a genetically acquired skill

# Why Should We Take the Boards?

✧ *Dealing with the thorny issues seen recently in Washington, D.C.*

✧ <http://www.jems.com/articles/2016/02/d-c-medical-director-explains-toxic-culture.html>

✧ Watch the video!!!!



What is some of the knowledge needed to pass the boards?

- ✧ The Emergency Support Functions
  - ✧ How to do research
  - ✧ Mass gatherings
  - ✧ Establishing due process
  - ✧ Important NFPA standards

# What is some of the knowledge needed to pass the boards?

- ✧ NDMS

- ✧ The Stafford Act

- ✧ How to train providers

- ✧ How to RE-train providers

- ✧ Discipline in EMS systems

- ✧ Maintaining CQI Programs

So, Terry, what's the problem?



That is  
ONE FREAKING  
HARD TEST!!!!



Some 500 or so  
EMS physicians thus far

Barely a  
50% pass rate  
for the blue hairs

Some 750 or so physicians so far



go!!!



The Results so Far!!!  
***EMS Medicine is the  
LARGEST ABEM Subspecialty***

- EMS Medicine: 459!!!
- Medical Toxicology: 404
  - Pediatric EM: 294
- Hyperbaric Medicine: 197
  - Sports Medicine: 161
- Hospice/Palliative Care: 114

# What is the future of EMS medicine?

- We ARE a Specialty!
- Proof of quality care is the future!
- The EMS Compass project is NOW!
  - The Advance of Evidence
    - There will be more boarded docs
- More progressive EMS systems will REQUIRE EMS Board Certification
- States will REQUIRE Certification

A faded background image of an elderly woman with short grey hair, wearing a light-colored zip-up jacket. She is holding a black telephone receiver to her ear with her right hand, and her left hand is resting on her chest. The image is set against a dark blue gradient background.

# We take care of all conditions

- ✧ All ages
- ✧ All hours
- ✧ All scenes





What is the difference between the  
Boarded vs. Non-boarded EMS Doc



It is “experience alone”  
as opposed to  
***TARGETED STUDY***



What will drive this specialty?

The gaining of experience  
*WHILE EMBRACING*  
the advance of evidence!



What will drive this specialty?

The mining of  
*ENORMOUS*  
databases of clinical care

A 3D illustration of a central database cylinder connected to several laptops on circular bases. The central cylinder is dark blue with horizontal lines and is connected by blue lines to six smaller blue circular bases, each with a laptop on top. The entire scene is set against a light gray background.

So, how did I pass that test?

- I got lucky
- I took EM Recert the month before: *Study mode!!*
- Writing the EMS Board Review Course and giving it 3 times

People said, “Of course you  
passed! You were an author!”

David C. Cone • Robert E. O'Connor • Raymond L. Fowler

CLINICAL ASPECTS OF  
PREHOSPITAL MEDICINE

Jon R. Krohmer • Anu Sahni • Brian S. Schwartz • Henry E. Wang

“I helped WRITE the  
damn book, I didn’t  
READ IT!!!”






So, Terry, I mean REALLY!!!

If enough EMS physicians  
don't challenge the Boards,  
they might just go away....

*so they should put on their Kevlar  
and GO FOR IT!!!!!!*

I mean, REALLY, TERRY!!!

The logo of the American Board of Emergency Medicine is a circular seal. It features an hourglass in the center, with the words "AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE" around the perimeter. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is at the bottom right of the seal.

Are we  
a specialty....

....*or not???*

When I was a young laddie...



Would EM

***EVER***

*be a widely  
accepted specialty?*

Fast Forward 20 years from now



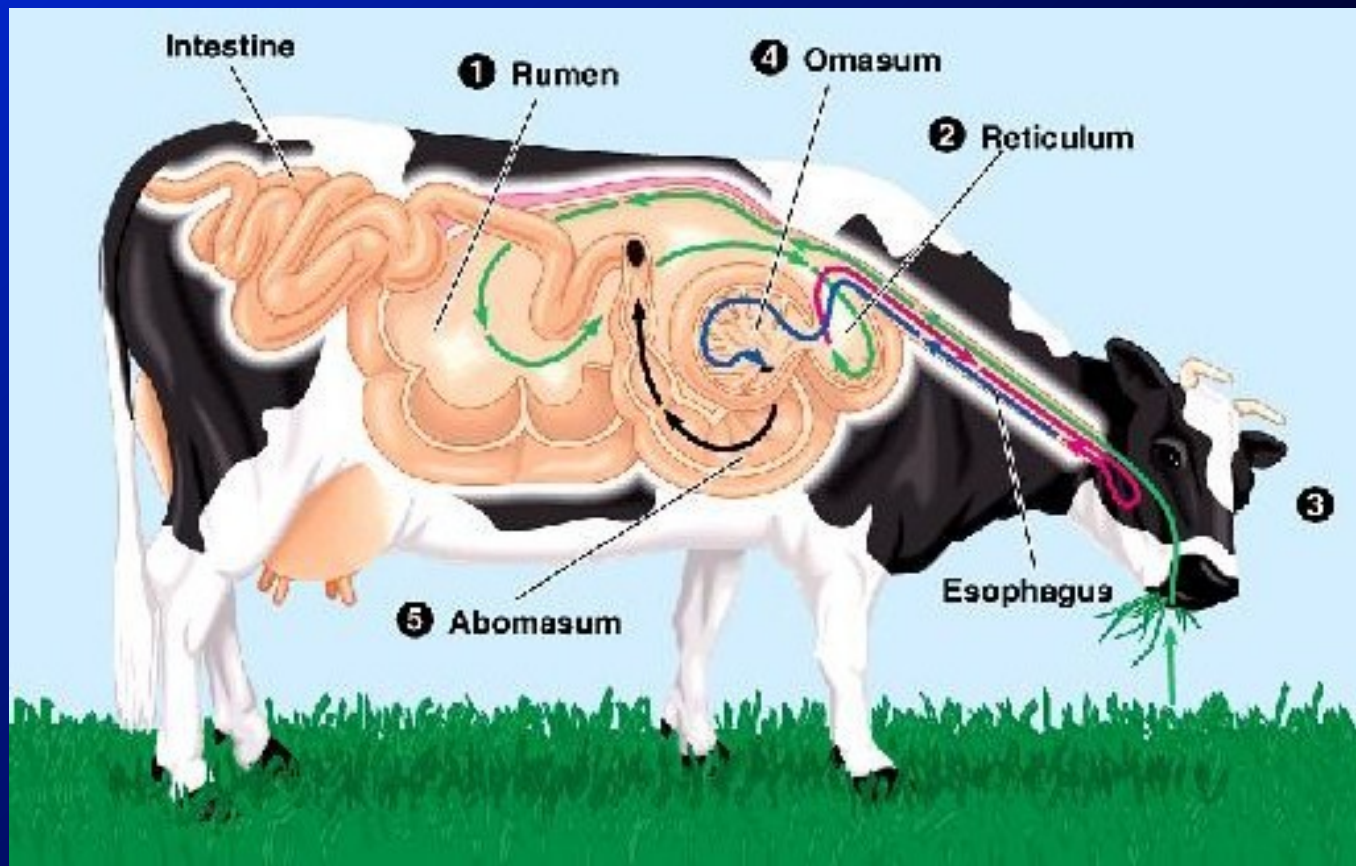
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*Where Will We Be?*





# *Ruminations upon Closing*



A background image showing a man with glasses and a white shirt, focused on writing in a notebook. He is in a classroom setting with other students blurred in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle containing the text.

As you prepare for that  
God-forsaken test...

- ✧ *Take the EMS Subspecialty Review Course*
- ✧ *Take the Online Prep Questions*
- ✧ *Go to my website for my study materials*
- ✧ *We will guide you to other great resources*



A background image showing a classroom scene with students. In the foreground, a male student with glasses is looking down at a desk, possibly writing or reading. Other students are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing text.

## A final unsolicited thought

*I call on ABEM to study the pass rates  
of those challenging the examination  
who are NOT native English speakers*



*So TERRY*

*Let's Hear it!*

Oh, and Terry....be careful out there





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