



Basic Level Support (BLS) Practice Analysis Summary
for the Levels of
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

One of the main missions of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians is to provide a valid, uniform process to assess the knowledge and skills required for competent practice by EMS professionals. To support this mission, the National Registry conducts routine research studies, referred to as practice analyses, to define the knowledge and skills required for EMS roles. Starting in 2022, the National Registry conducted a practice analysis for the basic life support (BLS) roles of Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

Study Methodology

The process of conducting the BLS-level practice analysis consisted of the following four major sequential phases:

- I. **Observational studies:** A small sample of practitioners were observed in their role to gather initial data on how the job is performed.
- II. **Practitioner interviews:** A structured interview was conducted with volunteers from multiple practice settings across multiple geographic areas. A qualitative data analysis procedure was used to explore the data for common themes and trends.
- III. **Panel meeting of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs):** A representative panel of SMEs reviewed the data collected in the previous steps, and discussed and developed a comprehensive description of the job role as defined by job tasks and the knowledge and skills required to competently perform the tasks.
- IV. **Validation study:** A survey was developed and distributed to validate the work from the panel meeting. This survey also collected data that was necessary to develop the examination specifications.

Study Results

Following the completion of the four phases, 28 major job tasks were defined and grouped into five performance domains: Scene Size-up and Safety (6 job tasks); Primary Assessment (9 tasks); Secondary Assessment (2 tasks); Patient Treatment and Transport (7 tasks); and Operations (4 tasks). The list of domains and job tasks are provided below.

Content Domain	Related Job Tasks
Scene Size-up and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a plan of action prior to arrival using all available information to ensure safe and effective operations.• Protect self, other responders, patient, public, and the emergency scene from existing and potential hazards.• Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), based on known hazards to protect responders from exposure.• Investigate the scene to determine potential patients.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triage patients to ensure optimal care.• Request appropriate resources based on known hazards and patient conditions to mitigate all facets of the emergency scene.
Primary Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate with the patient and/or bystanders to establish rapport.• Determine general impression of the patient.• Assess patient's level of consciousness.• Assess the patient's airway.• Assess patient's breathing status.• Assess patient's circulation.• Determine chief complaint and life threats.• Obtain results of patient's baseline vital signs and diagnostic testing.• Identify the need for rapid treatment, rapid transport, or additional resources.
Secondary Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate patients' current condition and needs through focused physical assessment, interviewing, and past medical history to develop a continued treatment plan.• Investigate previous findings and interventions through reassessment to determine any changes in the patient's condition.
Patient Treatment and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage the patient airway, ventilation, and oxygenation.• Manage the patient cardiovascular and circulatory system.• Manage motion restriction of the patient musculoskeletal system.• Administer medication.• Manage interventions specific to special populations.• Manage patient transport.• Communicate pertinent patient information.
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the equipment is in proper working order.• Ensure sufficient inventory of medication and supplies utilized in patient care.• Ensure that proper documentation is completed.• Ensure the well-being of self and other responders.

Each job task is followed by a list of knowledge and skills that an EMR or EMT must possess to competently perform their role. While the list of performance domains and job tasks are the same for the role of the EMR and EMT, the knowledge and skills provided are reflective of the scope and complexity of the job role.

The data collected and results of the practice analysis are used to guide content development and test plans for the EMR and EMT certification examinations. This practice analysis study serves as a



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crucial step in ensuring the validity of the certifications in that they measure the knowledge and skills that are necessary for competent performance of the EMS practitioner role.