

# **Cardiac Management Instructions to Skill Examiners**

## **(Dynamic Cardiology, Static Cardiology, and Cardiac Arrest Management/AED)**

Thank you for serving as a Skill Examiner at today's examination. Please take a few moments to review the instructions for your station.

### **Skill Examiner Responsibilities**

- Act in a professional and unbiased manner toward everyone involved in the exam, including candidates.
- Limit conversation with candidates to instructions and answering exam-related questions.
- Do not behave in a way that is discriminatory or perceived as harassment, and immediately report all instances of discrimination or harassment to the National Registry Representative.
- Maintain control of your scenario.
  - Familiarize yourself with the details of the scenario.
  - Brief simulated patients and assistants.
  - Make sure all equipment is functional.
- Be sure that all exam materials always remain in a secure place.
- Return all exam materials to the National Registry Representative.
  - Include all notes taken by the candidate.
- Thoroughly document justification for the candidate's score, especially if any Critical Criteria are identified.
- Do not give verbal or physical cues to the candidate to indicate their performance at your station. Remain neutral and objective in your conduct.

### **Skill Examiner Key Points**

- Candidates are expected to choose equipment and medications based on current evidence-based guidelines and the national scope of practice for the level for which the candidate is testing.
- The chronological order in which a candidate performs each step for a skill is only important if performing steps out of order would cause harm.
- Reasonable equipment substitutions are acceptable. Direct any questions regarding equipment substitutions to the National Registry Representative.
- Report all equipment failures immediately to the National Registry Representative, and promptly replace defective equipment.

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## **Dynamic Cardiology**

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- The candidate will be required to interpret and verbally treat four arrhythmias according to current Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines.
- There is a maximum time limit of eight minutes.
- Evaluate the candidate's ability to deliver sequential care based on the prepared patient presentations.
- The manikin must be on the floor.
- All electrical interventions must physically be performed on the manikin or trainer.
- Ensure that candidates perform electrical interventions at their lowest energy setting but verbalize the actual dose they would administer.
- Do not change the order of the listed rhythms or substitute a new rhythm that is not specifically listed in the scenario.
- This station progresses through the arrhythmias in sequential order, regardless of whether appropriate treatment was administered.
- Give clear information. Do not be misleading.
- Candidates may print a rhythm strip, but all strips must be collected and retained with the examination records.
- Ensure that each candidate's Dynamic Cardiology scenario number aligns with their Static Cardiology scenario number.

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## **Static Cardiology**

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- The candidate will be required to interpret and verbally treat four arrhythmias based on current Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines.
- There is a maximum time limit of six minutes.
- Do not provide additional information which is not present on the cards.
- Any interpretation or intervention should be documented in the space provided on the evaluation form.
- Hand cards to the candidate in numerical order.
- Candidates can skip rhythms and come back to them within the time limit.
- Remember that the answers provided are suggested guidelines and are not all encompassing.
- You may award one of the two points for treatment if partial treatment was correctly provided.
- Be sure to receive confirmation that the candidate is finished with the current card before moving to the next card.
- Ensure that each candidate's Static Cardiology scenario number aligns with their Dynamic Cardiology scenario number.

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## **Cardiac Arrest Management/AED**

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- Evaluate the candidate's ability to effectively manage an unwitnessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrest based on current Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines.
- The manikin must be on the floor.
- The candidate should perform five cycles of single-rescuer CPR before using the AED.
- Once the shock is delivered and compressions resume, the scenario ends.

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## Equipment List

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These skills should be performed in a quiet, isolated room with a desk or table and two comfortable chairs. Do not open these skills for testing until the National Registry Representative has inspected your station. The following equipment must also be available, and you must ensure that it is working adequately throughout the examination:

For all candidates

- Personal protective equipment

For AEMT candidates

- Automated External Defibrillator (trainer model programmed with current ECC Guidelines) with freshly charged and spare batteries
- CPR manikin that can be defibrillated with an AED trainer
- Conductive medium (gel, pads, etc.)

For Paramedic Candidates

- Monitor/defibrillator with freshly charged and spare batteries
- Arrhythmia generator compatible with manikin and monitor/defibrillator
- Defibrillation manikin for Paramedic candidates
- ECG paper for Paramedic candidates
- Conductive medium (gel, pads, etc.)

Read the following instructions to all Paramedic candidates:

## Instructions to the Psychomotor Skills Candidate Dynamic Cardiology Skill Station

Welcome to the Dynamic Cardiology skill station. This skill is designed to evaluate your ability to recognize and treat cardiac arrhythmias according to current Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines and algorithms. In this part, you will be evaluated utilizing the defibrillation manikin and ECG monitor/defibrillator. Four separate arrhythmias will be presented to you. You must act as the team leader and voice your interpretation of each arrhythmia and the related treatments. You must physically demonstrate and perform all electrical interventions necessary throughout this skill. For safety reasons, please leave the defibrillator turned down to its lowest energy setting and verbally state the energy level you would be delivering to the patient. The patient's response to your interventions in these scenarios is scripted and does not reflect your performance. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the equipment before we begin. I will be happy to explain any of the specific operational features of the monitor/defibrillator if you have questions.

[Allow the candidate to review the equipment if they choose to do so, then continue reading the following:]

You will have eight minutes to complete this skill once we begin. I may ask questions for clarification and will acknowledge the verbal treatments you indicate are necessary. Do you have any questions?

[Refer to the information provided on the Dynamic Cardiology scenario.]

## Instructions to the Psychomotor Skills Candidate Static Cardiology Skill Station

Read the following instructions to all Paramedic candidates:

Welcome to the Static Cardiology skill station. This skill is designed to evaluate your ability to recognize and verbally treat cardiac arrhythmias according to current Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines and algorithms. Four separate static ECG recordings with associated patient information will be presented. I am not permitted to supply any additional information not contained on the cards. I will individually hand you each of the four cards. You may read the patient information out loud or to yourself. You will first need to verbally inform me of your interpretation of the rhythm or condition. Then you must tell me all treatments and interventions you would provide this patient in the field. Assume that the rhythm you see continues in each patient and does not change. You may pass on any card and come back to it if time permits. You will have a total of six minutes to complete all four of the patient encounters. Do you have any questions?

Read the following instructions to all Advanced EMT candidates:

## Instructions to the Psychomotor Skills Candidate Cardiac Arrest Management/AED Skill Station

Welcome to the Cardiac Arrest Management/AED skill station. This skill is designed to evaluate your ability to manage an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest by integrating patient assessment and management skills, CPR skills, and usage of an AED. You arrive on scene by yourself and you must begin resuscitation of the patient in accordance with Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines for CPR. You must physically perform two minutes of single-rescuer CPR and operate the AED, including delivery of a shock. The patient's response is scripted and does not reflect your performance. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the equipment before we begin, and I will be happy to explain any of the specific operational features of the AED. If you brought your own AED, I need to make sure it is approved for testing before we begin.

[When the candidate acknowledges they are familiar with the equipment, continue reading the following:]

You will have ten minutes to complete this skill once we begin. I may ask questions for clarification and will acknowledge the treatments you indicate are necessary. Do you have any questions?

You respond to a call and find this patient lying on the floor.