



Basic Life Support (BLS) Practice Analysis

Starting in late 2022, the National Registry of EMTs conducted a Basic Life Support (BLS) Practice Analysis. Through the 2022 BLS Practice Analysis, essential job tasks, and the knowledge and skills required to competently perform those job tasks, were defined. This practice analysis serves as the foundation of the BLS examinations (content validity) as the results were used to develop the test specifications for the next version of the examination.

In June 2023, the new BLS practice analysis and the resulting test specifications were approved by the National Registry Board of Directors. Subsequently, the existing item banks for the EMT and EMR examinations were reclassified for alignment to the new content outlines (e.g., list of job tasks, knowledge, and skills) and new item development began. The existing items were reassigned from the existing five domains to the new domains identified by the subject matter expert practice analysis group and validated by EMR and EMT clinicians via a survey. The new domains are as follows:

- ✱ **Domain 1.** Scene Size-up and Safety
- ✱ **Domain 2.** Primary Assessment
- ✱ **Domain 3.** Secondary Assessment
- ✱ **Domain 4.** Patient Treatment and Transport
- ✱ **Domain 5.** Operations

What You Need To Know

The recent Practice Analysis was conducted to define the current day-to-day work activities of the BLS-level clinician and the knowledge and skills they are required to have to be competent in these roles.



Key Takeaways

- * Practice analyses are conducted routinely and updated to reflect changes in practice.
- * The recent practice analysis was conducted with the input of BLS level clinician and educators.
- * Items from previous exams will be released and adjusted to align with the requirements of the new examination.

Questions

Q- Why did it take eight years to perform a new practice analysis for the BLS levels?

A- The pandemic and the organizational need to focus on the ALS levels first delayed the completion of the BLS Practice Analysis. Future practice analyses will be conducted on a regular 4 -year cadence.

Q- Why are the domains changing?

A- The domain change reflects the feedback we received from hundreds of BLS clinicians. Input was gathered through a multi-step process that included observations, interviews, focus groups, and a validation survey. Ultimately, it was actively working EMRs and EMTs that used these domains to describe the job tasks they felt were critical to perform in their role.

Q- How will the practice analysis impact BLS EMS educational curriculum?

A- The complete practice analysis provides representative knowledge and skills that clinicians deemed necessary to have in order to perform their job tasks competently. Practice Analysis provides the link between the job role and the knowledge and skills, which is essential for the content validity of the examination. Educators are responsible for teaching knowledge and skills, but the practice analysis is not meant to define or drive the method or practice of teaching.

Dates To Know

Late 2024 / Early 2025

