

# EMS General Knowledge Study Guide

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**Purpose:** This guide highlights the main content areas students should review for the general knowledge portion of the EMS competition exam. It is designed to support class review, independent study, and test prep practice.

## Scene Safety and Initial Response

Review scene size-up, personal safety, and identifying hazards or mechanisms of injury before patient contact.

## Primary Assessment

Know the immediate priorities for an unresponsive patient, including airway, breathing, circulation, and level of consciousness.

## Airway and Breathing

Study airway obstruction clues, snoring respirations, use of an oropharyngeal airway, bag-valve-mask ventilation, and normal adult ventilation rates.

## Patient Assessment Terms

Be able to distinguish signs from symptoms and recognize terms such as dyspnea, jaundice, bradycardia, cyanosis, and altered mental status.

## SAMPLE History

Memorize the SAMPLE format and practice matching patient questions to each part of the history.

## Medical Emergencies

Review diabetic emergencies, allergic reactions, overdose clues, shock, and the assessment findings connected to each condition.

## Trauma and Triage

Study open versus closed wounds, care for impaled objects, bleeding control, and how to prioritize patients during a mass-casualty incident.

## Cardiac and Special Population Care

Review chest pain interventions, CPR and AED basics, and positioning considerations for a pregnant patient.

## Transfer of Care

Understand when transfer of care officially occurs and why a clear verbal report to hospital staff matters.

### Student Practice Checklist

- I can explain the order of a primary assessment.
- I know the difference between a sign and a symptom.
- I can identify common airway and breathing interventions.
- I can use SAMPLE history correctly.
- I can recognize shock, overdose, and cardiac emergency clues.
- I understand basic trauma treatment priorities and triage tags.