



Standard Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) To Manage Obstetrical Emergencies¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1421; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum training standard for the management of Obstetrical Emergencies by the emergency medical technician (basic).

1.2 This guide is one of a series which together describe the minimum training standard for the emergency medical technician (basic).

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

F 1031 Practice for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)²

F 1219 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Primary Assessment²

F 1253 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Secondary Assessment²

F 1285 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Examination Techniques²

F 1328 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Prepare Patients for Medical Transportation²

F 1329 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) in Basic Anatomy and Physiology²

F 1419 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Manage Shock²

F 1420 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Management Techniques²

2.2 Other documents:

Standards and Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care³

Textbook of Pediatric Advanced Life Support⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *Management*—Refers to the step(s) that constitute action taken by the emergency medical technician (basic) for a patient in need of assistance due to a real or perceived traumatic or medical condition.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide establishes the minimum national standard for training the emergency medical technician (basic) in the management of obstetrical emergencies in patients of all ages. This guide does not preclude additions to or modifications of the management of obstetrical emergencies by the emergency medical technician (basic) as authorized by local medical protocol.

4.2 This guide shall be used by those who wish to identify the minimum training standard for the emergency medical technician (basic) as it relates to management of obstetrical emergencies.

4.3 This guide shall be used as the basis to revise Practice F 1031.

4.4 Every person who is identified as an emergency medical technician (basic) shall have been trained to this standard.

4.5 This guide does not stand alone and must be used in conjunction with all referenced documents cited in Section 2.

4.6 The management steps outlined in this document are not necessarily in sequential order and they will often vary with the patient's age, size, location and condition.

5. General Guidelines

5.1 All emergency medical technicians (basic) shall be trained to:

5.1.1 Reassess all patients frequently and at least prior to and following every therapeutic intervention.

5.1.2 Deal with patient problems in the order of their severity.

5.1.3 Immediately transport patients with life-threatening conditions that cannot be resolved in the field in accordance with local protocol.

5.1.4 Treat all patients in a professional, caring and reassuring manner.

5.1.5 Transfer care of the patient to either ALS providers responding to the scene or an appropriate hospital or other medical facility in accordance with local protocols.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-30 on Emergency Medical Services and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F30.02 on Personnel, Training and Education.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.01.

³ Reprinted from *Journal of the American Medication Association*, June 6, 1986, Vol 255, pp 2842–3044.

⁴ Chameides, et al., American Heart Association, Dallas, 1988.