

Outcomes

At the end of this lecture the learner will be able to:

- Describe some of the major historical events in the evolution of EMS
- Discuss the role played by standard setting agencies such as National Registry, Joint Review Committee of Accreditation, and NAEMT
- Discuss the role of research in EMS
- And become familiar with several professional journals.



Early Emergency Care

- Mesopotamia (SW Asia; 3000 BC)
- Artifacts showing that these early civilizations had :
 - Medical records
 - Protocols of treatment
 - Head to toe evaluation (pt. history)
 - Natural history or expected outcome (prognosis)
 - Necessary equipment itemization




Early Emergency Care

- French / Napoleonic wars
 - Trauma surgeon, Larrey:
 - “Flying Ambulance ” triage
- U.S.
 - Clara Barton
 - Removal of the severely injured from battlefield to a makeshift hospital
 - Cincinnati Ohio (1865)
 - First non-combat ambulance service in U.S.



20th Century Emergency Care

- In field trauma, triage and treatment continued to evolve
 - World Wars I and II
 - Korean and Vietnam wars
- In field non-trauma, triage and treatment began to evolve in the early ‘70s
 - Several U.S. cities
 - Ireland
 - Israel



The Beginning

- “Accidental Death And Disability: The Neglected Disease Of Modern Society”
- National Academy of Sciences position paper
 - Leadership from Academy of Scientists
 - Not physicians, nurses, political leaders
- 1966



The National Academy's Position

- Identified *deficiencies* in pre-hospital emergency care
- Guidelines for *development* of EMS System
- Guidelines for *training* of pre-hospital health care providers
- Proposed *standards* for pre-hospital equipment



Initiatives

- Transportation and Safety Act of 1966
 - along with other private initiatives
 - The first Transportation and Safety Act establishing this part of the DOT
 - Forced states to develop EMS systems
- DOT
 - Published the first EMT curriculum in 1969
 - Then later published the first EMT-paramedic curriculum in 1977
- The National Registry of EMTs
 - Founded in 1970, before the first paramedic curriculum !!






State Block Grant Funding

- 1981
 - Ronald Reagan
 - decentralization of non-military budget
- Direct federal funding of EMS is eliminated
 - Funds channeled through state block grants
 - Some systems faced economic disaster



“Injury in America”


- 1985
- New position paper pointed out need for developing regional trauma care systems



National Quality Assurance


1988, ACEP recommends:

- Standard ALS equipment
- Establishing EMS technical assistance programs
 - Including *quality improvement* systems
- *Medical direction* of all aspects of patient care rendered by non-physician providers
- All pre-hospital providers now function as *designated agents* regardless of employer



National Quality Assurance


- 1998, DOT publishes new, revised EMT-paramedic curriculum (NSC)
- Standard setting for education organizations
- JRC-CAHEA, now called JRC for educational programs
- AMA committee
 - Providing accreditation services for paramedic educational programs
 - Only national quality assurance system for educational outcomes
 - Competency-based, criterion-based



National Professional Organizations

NAEMT (National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians)

- Committed to improving EMS education
- Still only a few thousand dues-paying members (why ?)



National Registry



- Standardized national tests: basic, intermediate, paramedic
- Establishes national minimum standard of competency
- Major tool for professional lateral transfer and reciprocity
- In 2003, the only eight states do not recognize the National Registry Paramedic
- Statistically more valid than small test pool (small test pool = small denominator)
- Tax savings to states which adopt the National Registry



Pre-Hospital Research

- Moral
- Educational
- Financial
- Practical
- Therapeutic / medical




Research Project Components

- Identify the problem, reason for the study, question to be examined
- Formulate a hypothesis
- Literature search
- Design the study—outline previous methods, patient-consent issues, review process
- Perform steady/collect data
- Analyze data out/statistical correlation
- Evaluate results against the original question
- Write the study for publication



Professional Journals

- [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#)
- [Journal of Emergency Medicine](#)
- [Prehospital Emergency Care](#)
- [American Journal of Emergency Medicine](#)
- [JAMA](#)



Summary

We have discussed:

- Major historical events in the evolution of EMS
- The role played by standards setting agencies
 - The federal government
 - National Registry
 - Joint Review Committee of Accreditation
 - NAEMT
- An introduction to the importance of research in EMS
- Several professional journals worth becoming familiar with
