

STUDY GUIDE
for
Medical-Legal Considerations
EMS Communications

1. Homicide and rape are examples of wrongs against society and would be tried in
 - a. criminal court
 - b. tort court
 - c. civil court
 - d. none of the above
2. Which of the following would be an example of a tort case?
 - a. divorce
 - b. suicide
 - c. homicide
 - d. malpractice
3. As a result of their professional duties, paramedics could find themselves involved in which types of legal cases?
 - a. tort cases
 - b. civil cases
 - c. criminal cases
 - d. all of the above
4. A "Medical Practice Act"
 - a. defines the scope of practice for allied health care professionals
 - b. is a national standard for allied health care professionals
 - c. outlines ethical behavior guidelines for medical paraprofessionals
 - d. is unnecessary in states that license their paramedics
5. The doctrine of "delegation of authority" states that
 - a. paramedics may practice independently
 - b. paramedics may only practice under the license of a physician
 - c. paramedics cannot be found criminally liable for practicing without a license
 - d. paramedics do not require a "Medical Practice Act"
6. Laws that protect health care workers from liability in the event they stop and render

roadside care are known as

- a. Good Samaritan Laws
 - b. *Res ipsa loquitur* laws
 - c. delegation of authority laws
 - d. negligence laws
7. If a question arises concerning the validity of "Do Not Resuscitate" orders or "Living Wills," the paramedic should
- a. contact medical control
 - b. perform BLS and transport
 - c. accept and honor all such orders
 - d. run a "slow code" in these cases
8. Negligence is defined as
- a. lawsuits involving no physical harm
 - b. deviating from the standard of care
 - c. failing to prove proximate cause
 - d. all of the above
9. Which of the following is not a necessary component of a successful negligence suite?
- a. duty to act
 - b. breach of duty
 - c. proximate cause
 - d. unlawful consent
10. In *res ipsa loquitur*, the burden of proof rests with the
- a. plaintiff
 - b. defendant
 - c. medical advisory council
 - d. district attorney
11. Informed consent means
- a. the adult patient is mentally competent
 - b. the patient understands the treatment and the risks
 - c. the patient agrees to the treatment
 - d. all of the above
12. Which of the following would not fall under the concept of implied consent?
- a. An unconscious diabetic in insulin shock

- b. A 5 year old in anaphylactic shock with no parent present
 - c. A mentally retarded person with bilateral fractured femurs
 - d. A diabetic who awakens following 50% dextrose therapy and refuses transport
- 13. Failure to formally transfer the patient to medical staff in the emergency department could place the paramedic in danger of being sued for
 - a. false imprisonment
 - b. unlawful consent
 - c. abandonment
 - d. patient endangerment
- 14. Threatening to defibrillate a patient if he does not quiet down could place a paramedic in danger of being sued for
 - a. assault
 - b. battery
 - c. libel
 - d. slander
- 15. Starting an IV on a competent patient who absolutely refuses one could place the paramedic in danger of being sued for
 - a. assault
 - b. battery
 - c. libel
 - d. slander
- 16. Transporting a patient to the hospital against his will could place the paramedic in danger of being sued for
 - a. false imprisonment
 - b. kidnapping
 - c. unlawful consent
 - d. assault and battery
- 17. Stating on the radio that "We've got Frank Ashby again, and he's drunk and obnoxious as usual" could place the paramedic in danger of being sued for
 - a. assault
 - b. battery
 - c. libel
 - d. slander
- 18. Writing in the run sheet that a certain patient "probably has AIDS from deviant homosexual activity" could place the paramedic in danger of being sued for
 - a. assault
 - b. definition of character

- c. libel
 - d. slander
19. Which of the following statements is true concerning prehospital documentation?
 - a. If you don't write it down, you did not do it
 - b. A well documented run sheet can be your best defense in court
 - c. Intentional alterations of the run sheet are considered admissions of guilt
 - d. all of the above
 20. A paramedic's best defense against potential legal liability is
 - a. purchasing medical malpractice insurance
 - b. documenting as little as possible on the run sheet
 - c. relying on Good Samaritan immunity
 - d. practicing excellent quality prehospital care
 21. Which of the following statements regarding motor vehicle laws is true?
 - a. motor vehicle laws vary considerably from state to state
 - b. it is mandatory, in all states, that the paramedic be familiar with appropriate statutes regarding operation of emergency vehicles
 - c. lights and sirens do not give the paramedic ambulance the right of way
 - d. all of the above are true
 22. In the majority of states, the paramedic has an obligation to report all of the following, except
 - a. abuse or neglect of children and the elderly
 - b. rape
 - c. gunshot
 - d. alcohol or drug abuse
 - e. animal bites
 23. You are called to a private residence where you are met by a woman who tells you her husband has "passed on." She further states that the patient had terminal cancer and had signed papers requesting no resuscitation attempts when he died. These paper would be an example of what is known as
 - a. a death wish
 - b. a living will
 - c. suicidal ideation
 - d. all of the above
 24. Unfortunately, the woman cannot find the papers. But she assures you they were written by her husband's lawyer and even notarized. You assess the patient and note him to be jaundiced, emaciated, apneic, and pulseless. You should
 - a. initiate all aspects of ACLS except intubation, and transport the patient in the absence of a legal document
 - b. allow the wife a minimum of 10 more minutes to locate the paper s before

- c. initiating resuscitation
 - d. use the "quick look" paddles and initiate resuscitation only if the patient is in coarse V fib
 - e. recognize that the patient was suffering from terminal illness, respect his wishes by withholding resuscitation, but have his wife sign the trip sheet as having refused care
- your
 - e. initiate BLS resuscitation, call medical control, and discuss your finding with physician
- 25. Conduct failing to meet the standard of care is called
 - a. willful disobedience
 - b. negligence
 - c. abandonment
 - d. any of the above
- 26. Which of the following will not impede the range of radio transmissions?
 - a. flatlands
 - b. mountains
 - c. tall buildings
 - d. dense foliage
- 27. A device that receives a transmission from a low-power source on one frequency and retransmits it at a higher power on another frequency is a/an _____.
 - a. mobile transmitter
 - b. repeater
 - c. encoder
 - d. decoder
- 28. The process by which low power transmissions are selected by the receiver that picks up the strongest signal and boosts the signal to the base station is known as
 - a. decoding
 - b. boosting
 - c. encoding
 - d. voting
- 29. A device that transmits specific tones to activate certain radios is called a/an
 - a. encoder
 - b. voter
 - c. repeater
 - d. decoder
- 30. A radio pager is an example of a/an

- a. encoder
 - b. decoder
 - c. repeater
 - d. voter
31. Which of the following is an advantage of using cellular communications?
- a. 12 lead EKGs can be transmitted
 - b. FAX and computer messages can be transmitted
 - c. dedicated paramedic lines can be established
 - d. all of the above
32. A group of radio frequencies close together is called a
- a. band
 - b. spectrum
 - c. multiplex
 - d. UHF configuration
33. Which of the following is not an EMS frequency range?
- a. VHF-lo
 - b. VHF-high
 - c. UHF
 - d. AM
34. Which of the following radio frequency ranges offers the clearest communications with the least interference?
- a. 30-50 mhz
 - b. 150-170 mhz
 - c. 450-470 mhz
 - d. 800 mhz
35. Trunking is a communications term that describes
- a. computerized frequency allocation
 - b. hard-wiring for ambulance radios
 - c. base station radio procedures
 - d. multiple antennae installation
36. Which of the MED channels are designated for paramedic to physician communications?
- a. 1-8
 - b. 9-10

- c. all 10
 - d. all 12
37. Transmitting the patient's ECG over the air is a process known as
- a. demodulation
 - b. voting
 - c. biotelemetry
 - d. trunking
38. A modulator
- a. converts radio tones into ECG voltage changes
 - b. converts ECG voltage changes into radio tones
 - c. is found in the hospital base station
 - d. displays its signal on an oscilloscope
39. Which of the following can cause ECG interference?
- a. loose electrodes
 - b. muscle tremors
 - c. 60 hz
 - d. all of the above
40. In which type of communications system does transmission and reception occur on the same frequency?
- a. simplex
 - b. duplex
 - c. multiplex
 - d. biotelemetry
41. In which type of communications system can transmission and reception occur simultaneously but not EKG?
- a. simplex
 - b. duplex
 - c. multiplex
 - d. biotelemetry
42. In which type of communications system can biotelemetry information be transmitted during conversation on the same frequency?
- a. simplex
 - b. duplex
 - c. multiplex

- d. biotelemetry
43. The governmental agency that regulates all radio communications is the
- a. Department of Transportation
 - b. Department of Communications
 - c. Federal Communications Commission
 - d. National Association of Broadcasting
44. Radio frequencies are designated by cycles per second. One cycle per second is called a _____.
- a. kilohertz (khz)
 - b. hertz (hz)
 - c. gigahertz (ghz)
 - d. microhertz (mchz)
 - e. megahertz (mhz)
45. One thousand cycles per second is called a
- a. kilohertz (khz)
 - b. hertz (hz)
 - c. gigahertz (ghz)
 - d. microhertz (mchz)
 - e. megahertz (mhz)
46. One million cycles per second is called a
- a. kilohertz (khz)
 - b. hertz (hz)
 - c. gigahertz (ghz)
 - d. microhertz (mchz)
 - e. megahertz (mhz)
47. Which of the following statements regarding VHF is true?
- a. VHF stands for "very high frequency"
 - b. VHF has a somewhat longer range than UHF
 - c. VHF has somewhat better penetration in dense urban areas than UHF
 - d. A and B
 - e. A and C
48. Radio equipment used for EMS communications typically employs _____, which is less susceptible to interference than _____.
- a. FM (faster modulation)/AM (altered modulation)
 - b. AM (amplitude modulation)/FM (frequency modulation)
 - c. AM (altered modulation)/FM (faster modulation)
 - d. AM (amplitude modulation)/FM (faster modulation)

- e. FM (frequency modulation)/AM (amplitude modulation)
49. Radio communication of patient information frequently should include all of the following except
- a. unit call name and number or name of the paramedic
 - b. the patient's name and ethnic group
 - c. the patient's chief complaint and associated symptoms
 - d. brief pertinent medical history, medications, and allergies
 - e. physical exam findings
50. Which EMS radio band is best for communications in urban areas?
- a. UHF
 - b. VHF low
 - c. VHF high
 - d. HF