Geriatric Emergencies
Course Design
2005-2006

Course Information
Organization: EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE
Division: Allied Health
Course Number: EMT 165
Title: Geriatric Emergencies
Credits: 1
Developed by: Christopher Black
Lecture/Lab Ratio: 1 Lecture/0 Lab
Transfer Status: No
Activity Course: No
CIP Code: 51.0904
Assessment Mode: Pre/Post Test (25 Questions/25 Points)
Semester Taught: Upon Request
GE Category: None
Separate Lab: No
Awareness Course: No
Intensive Writing Course: No

Prerequisites
None

Description
This course is designed to give prehospital providers a systematic approach, from the physical to the emotional changes, with growing old to medical emergencies. Additionally this course will deal with prehospital providers interactions with the terminally ill patient.

Supplies
None
Competencies and Performance Standards

1. Acquire knowledge of the treatments and procedures used in providing patient care for the geriatric patient.

Learning objectives
What you will learn as you master the competency:

a. Discuss physiological changes that occur with aging
b. Discuss psychological changes that occur with aging
c. Describe proper techniques for assessing geriatric patients based on physiologic and psychological changes.
d. Discuss various pharmacology issues related to geriatric patients.
e. Discuss common medical emergencies related to geriatric patients.

Performance Standards
You will demonstrate your competence:

- On quizzes and exams
- During role play exercises

Your performance will be successful when:

- You demonstrate an assessment of the geriatric patient.
- You demonstrate proper communication techniques during interviews for various geriatric patients.
- You identify various normal and abnormal findings during a geriatric patient assessment.

2. Differentiate through history taking and physical examination accidental falls from falls caused by medical reasons.

Learning objectives
What you will learn as you master the competency:

a. List the 10 most common causes of falls in the elderly
b. List 8 risk factors for falling.
c. Describe 2 hazards outside the home that increase the risk of a fall.
d. Describe 6 hazards inside the home that increase the risk of a fall.
e. List signs and symptoms of compression fractures to the spine.
f. List signs and symptoms of fractures to the ribs.
g. List 3 things that can prevent fires, burns and scalding.

Performance Standards
You will demonstrate your competence:

- On quizzes and exams
- During role play exercises

Your performance will be successful when:

- You demonstrate proper communication techniques during interviews for various geriatric patients.
- You differentiate accidental falls from falls caused by medical conditions through your
history taking and physical exam.

3. Establish an understanding of end of life issues facing terminally ill patients and their families.

Learning objectives
What you will learn as you master the competency:

a. Discuss the purpose of hospice care
b. List 7 steps that can be taken to allow a patient to die with dignity
c. Describe 11 things that will happen as the body prepares to die
d. Describe what is meant by a living will
e. Define a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) form.
f. Discuss the family’s role in hospice care
g. Discuss the family’s role in the DNR process

Performance Standards
You will demonstrate your competence:

o On quizzes and exams
o During role play exercises

Your performance will be successful when:

o you demonstrate proper communication techniques during interviews for various geriatric patients.

o you demonstrate proper communication techniques with family members.

o <Product> you write your "letter of needs" to your caregiver.

Types of Instruction
Classroom Presentation

Grading Information

Grading Rationale
Post test is used 100% in determining written examination pass/fail status. Two attempts to successfully complete the written and practic examinations are permitted.

Grading Scale

P 75% or better on written examination and successful completion of all practical skills examinations.

F Less than 75% on written examination or failure of any practical skills examination.