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BOOK REVIEW

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'Emergency Medical Technician: Making the Difference'

Chapleau, W. and Pons, P. Missouri: Mosby JEMS–Elsevier. 2007.

852 pages, ISBN 13-978-0-323-03272-8.

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Emergency Medical Technician: Making the Difference is a new US publication by Will Chapleau and Peter Pons. Published by Mosby JEMS–Elsevier, it like many US titles follows the US Department of Transportation National Standard Curriculum (NSC) for the EMT-Basic, its aims to provide EMTs with a complete guide for learning the essential skills required for clinical practice. Guided by the key learning objectives, the text is structured across 8 'divisions' that follow the classic approach to clinical practice. Beginning with preparatory the text covers the basics of an introduction to emergency medical services, the role of the EMT-Basic, medico-legal and ethical Issues, the human body, primary assessment, and the lifting and moving of patients. Division two is dedicated entirely to airway which is follow by patient assessment, communication and documentation. Divisions 4 and 5 deal with medical/behavioural emergencies and trauma respectively, and are followed by special populations in division 6 and operations in division 7. It includes an elective division on advanced airway management, with appendices on additional skills and National Registry Skills Sheets. The text and DVD include step-by-step skills with detailed instructions and clear colour photos reinforcing case scenarios for every chapter. The accompanying DVD provided useful demonstration of EMT skills. Some of the key features of this text include:

- Chapter Outlines, Lesson Goals, and Chapter Objectives begin each chapter.
- Step-by-Step Skills in the text are broken down with detailed instructions and clear photographs, allowing you to clearly see the skills you need to perform.
- The companion DVD contains more than 40 skills demonstrations, performed the right way by real practitioners. Plus, 20 medical animations demonstrate anatomy and physiology concepts and pathophysiological processes.
- Case Scenarios reinforce key concepts and skills, allowing you to see how core concepts are applied in the field.

- ‘Ask Yourself’ critical thinking boxes promote problem solving skills.
- Teamwork boxes explain how EMTs interact with other professionals on specific tasks, addressing the need for cooperation.
- Special Considerations boxes address exceptions to the rules that you may encounter in the field.
- ‘Special Populations’ boxes discuss common complications patients with special challenges may face and call attention to relevant cultural considerations.
- Nuts and Bolts review section at the end of each chapter contains Critical Points, a detailed Learning Checklist, Key Terms with definitions, and the National Standard Curriculum (NSC) Objectives – giving you a one-stop refresher.

It boasts an impressive collection of companion products, including:

- Emergency Medical Technician (Softcover) : Making the Difference
- Emergency Medical Technician - Hardcover Text & Workbook Package : Making the Difference
- Workbook for Emergency Medical Technician : Making the Difference
- Virtual Patient Encounters (VPE) for Emergency Medical Technician : Making the Difference
- Emergency Medical Technician - Hardcover Text and VPE Package : Making the Difference
- Emergency Medical Technician - Hardcover Text, Workbook and VPE Package

This is an excellent text for the beginner EMT-Basic. It is well-structured, comprehensive and concise, and makes good use of well-balanced combinations of textboxes and case scenarios. It is an excellent resource for anyone in EMS.

This book is available through:
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