CHAPTER 2
Acting in an Emergency
(Video- Acting in an emergency and preventing disease transmission)
Emergencies Vary

- Nature of injury or illness
- Severity of injury or illness
- Presence of other injuries or illness
- Scene of emergency
- The victim
Key Principles Apply to All Emergencies

- Take steps to prevent disease transmission
- Respond to all emergencies safely and efficiently
- Always check the scene for safety before entering
- Take care of yourself after an emergency
Preventing Disease Transmission

- Risk of disease from infected victim
- Taking steps to prevent infection reduces the risk
How Are Infectious Diseases Transmitted?

- Someone or something has infection
- Infectious pathogen leaves infected body
- Infectious pathogen reaches another by direct or indirect contact
- Second person develops infection
Transmission of a Pathogen

- Direct contact occurs with an infected person or with fluids or substances from that person
- Indirect contact occurs with contaminated objects, food or drink, droplets in the air or vectors such as insects (mosquito or tick)
Bloodborne Disease

• Caused by bacteria and viruses in blood and other body fluids
• Three serious bloodborne infections
  • HIV
  • Hepatitis B
  • Hepatitis C
HIV

- Virus that can eventually cause AIDS
- AIDS may be fatal
- Transmitted only through body fluids
- No vaccine
Hepatitis B (HBV)

- Viral infectious disease
- Transmitted through body fluids
- May cause liver damage or cancer
- Vaccine available
Hepatitis C (HCV)

- Viral infectious disease
- Transmitted through body fluids
- Can cause liver disease or cancer
- No vaccine
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Precautions

• Use personal protective equipment (PPE)
• If no gloves, use plastic bags
• Keep barrier between body fluids and yourself
• Wash your hands after giving first aid
• Cover any cuts or scrapes on skin
Precautions continued

- Do not touch mouth, nose or eyes when giving first aid
- Avoid being cut
- Use absorbent material to soak up blood or body fluids
- Dispose of contaminated material appropriately
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Precautions continued

If you are exposed to blood or body fluid:

• Wash immediately with soap and water
• Call your health care provider
• At work, report situation to your supervisor
Personal Protective Equipment

- Medical examination gloves
- Barrier devices
- Other devices (eye protection, mask, gowns, etc.)
Gloves

- Check that gloves are intact
- Do not use petroleum-based hand lotions
- Remove contaminated gloves carefully
- Dispose of gloves properly
- Handle sharp objects carefully
- Watch for signs and symptoms of latex allergy
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Barrier Devices

- Pocket face mask or face shield
- Used for rescue breaths during CPR
- Keep in first aid kit
- Greatly reduce chance of disease transmission
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Responding to Emergencies

1. Recognize the emergency
2. Check the scene
3. Check the victim
4. Call 9-1-1 (when appropriate)
5. Give first aid
6. Have victim seek medical attention (when appropriate)
Hazardous Scenes

- Never enter a burning or smoky building unless you have special training and are functioning as part of the fire department.
- Downed electrical wires cause a risk to both victim and potential first aider. Never try to move downed wires, call 911 immediately. If downed wires are across a car, do not touch the car, and do not remove the victim from the car (no matter how serious the injuries).
Check the Victim

- For responsiveness
- For life-threatening conditions
- Do not move victim
Call 9-1-1

• For any life-threatening injury or illness
• For unresponsive victims
• Check responsive victims before calling
Give First Aid

- Give basic life support for life-threatening conditions
- Do not administer medications
- In some cases help a victim with his or her own medication
After an Emergency

- Arriving professionals take over care of victim
- Fully describe to responders what you observed and the care you gave
- After giving first aid, clean area and wash your hands
- Answer all EMS responder questions
- Cooperate with other professionals such as police
Coping with a Traumatic Event

• Talk to someone
• Remind yourself your reaction is normal
• Seek help from student health center, employee assistance program or member assistance program
• It is normal to have a strong emotional reaction during and immediately after a stressful emergency. Often this reaction diminishes with time, but in some cases the stress remains and problems result
CHAPTER 2
Critical Thinking Challenge Questions
Scenario 1

While you are at a meeting at work, another employee cuts herself on a shard from a broken water glass. Blood is spurting from her hand. You’re not sure where the nearest first aid kit is and you know it is important to stop the bleeding as quickly as possible. But without the first aid kit, you have no gloves to wear to help stop her bleeding.

What are 2 possible ways to handle this situation without risking contact with her blood?