



NC Department of Health and Human Services

NCOEMS Chief 101

ETHICS



GOAL

- The goal of this program is to provide information and resource materials to current and future EMS Chiefs and officers regarding the various aspects, concepts, resources, regulations and complexities involving the administration, operations and organization of North Carolina EMS agencies and departments.
- The program consist of several topic areas but is not intended to be all inclusive of all aspects of EMS management and administration.



Objectives

- **At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will:**
 - Be able to discuss the various elements of the Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners
 - Consider the impacts of the Code of Ethics as they are applied or not applied to an organization's vision, culture and planning process.
 - Identify and discuss the EMT Oath as it was written by Dr. Charles B. Gillespie



Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners

Professional status as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS Practitioner is maintained and enriched by the willingness of the individual practitioners to accept and fulfill obligations to society, other medical professionals, and the EMS profession. As an EMS practitioner, I solemnly pledge myself to the following code of professional ethics:

**Originally written by: Charles B. Gillespie, M.D., and adapted by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, 1978.
Revised and adapted by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, June 2013.**



Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners

- To conserve life, alleviate suffering, promote health, do no harm, and encourage the quality and equal availability of emergency medical care.
- To provide services based on human need, with compassion and respect for human dignity, unrestricted by consideration of nationality, race, creed, color, or status,; not to judge the merits of the patient's request for service, nor allow the patient's socioeconomic status to influence our demeanor or the care that we provide.

Originally written by: Charles B. Gillespie, M.D., and adapted by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, 1978.
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Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners

- To not use professional knowledge and skills in any enterprise detrimental to the public well being.
- To respect and hold in confidence, information of a confidential nature obtained in the course of professional service unless required by law to divulge such information.

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Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners

- To use social media in a responsible and professional manner that does not discredit, dishonor, or embarrass an EMS organization, co-workers, other health care practitioners, patients, individuals or the community at large.
- As a citizen, to understand and uphold the law and perform the duties of citizenship; as a professional, to work with concerned citizens and other health care professionals in promoting a high standard of emergency medical care to all people.

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Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners

- To maintain professional competence, striving always for clinical; excellence in the delivery of patient care.
- To assume responsibility in upholding standards or professional practice and education.
- To assume responsibility for individual professional actions and judgment, both in dependent and independent emergency functions, and to know and uphold laws which affect the practice of EMS.

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Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners

- To be aware of and participate in matters of legislation and regulation affecting EMS.
- To work cooperatively with EMS associates and other allied healthcare professionals in the best interest of our patients.
- To refuse participation in unethical procedures, and assume the responsibility to expose incompetence or unethical conduct of others to the appropriate authority in a proper and professional manner.

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EMT Oath

“Be it pledged as an Emergency Medical Technician, I will honor the physical and judicial laws of God and man. I will follow the regimen which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of patients and abstain from whatever deleterious and mischievous, nor shall I suggest any such counsel. Into whatever homes I enter, I will go into them for the benefit of only the sick and injured, never revealing what I see or hear in the lives of men unless required by law.

I shall also share my medical knowledge with those who may benefit from what I have learned. I will serve unselfishly and continuously in order to help make a better world for all mankind.

While I continue to keep this oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life, and the practice of the art, respected by all men, in all times. Should I trespass or violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.

So help me God.”

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Consider This.....

“Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.”

- Potter Stewart



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- *Potter Stewart*



Summary & Questions

