



Australian Government

HLTAEDR002 Assess and respond to medical emergencies

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to clinically assess emergency presentations, provide emergency care, and to monitor the client's condition until the situation is stabilised or the client is transferred to the care of other medical services. Assessment and treatment may take place in a health service or in other locations such as accident sites and clients' homes. Medical emergencies may also involve multiple casualties.

This unit is specific to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people working as health practitioners. They work as part of a multidisciplinary primary health care team to provide primary health care services to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State or Territory legislation, Australian standards and industry codes of practice.

No regulatory requirement for certification, occupational or business licensing is linked to this unit at the time of publication. For information about practitioner registration and accredited courses of study, contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (ATSIHPBA).

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Emergency and Disaster Response

Unit Sector

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Make clinical assessment of emergency

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

- 1.1. Seek information from client and accompanying carers about reason for emergency presentation using culturally safe communication.

- presentation.
- 1.2. Access and refer to any existing client records to inform clinical assessment.
 - 1.3. Complete primary survey of client in correct sequence based on presenting condition according to organisational standard treatment protocols or emergency procedures.
 - 1.4. Identify the need for immediate assistance from emergency services and follow organisational procedures to access services.
 - 1.5. Complete secondary survey of client's clinical status according to organisational standard treatment protocols or emergency procedures.
 - 1.6. Complete client records to include accurate and complete details of emergency presentation.
 - 1.7. Identify potential for client deterioration and critical time factors based on outcomes of primary and secondary survey.
 - 1.8. Establish own capacity to provide treatment and take steps to organise assistance from other health professionals when need is indicated.
2. Implement medical emergency care.
- 2.1. Provide client and accompanying carers with clear information about treatment and its rationale and confirm understanding.
 - 2.2. Seek informed consent when condition allows and explain what this means.
 - 2.3. Administer emergency clinical treatments for presenting condition according to scope of practice and organisational standard treatment protocols or emergency procedures.
 - 2.4. Follow instructions from others when assistance has been sought for the treatment of the medical emergency.
 - 2.5. Select and use medical equipment suited to purpose of emergency treatment and according to manufacturer's specifications.
 - 2.6. Update client records accurately and according to organisational procedures.
3. Monitor and report client clinical status.
- 3.1. Continuously observe client and identify changes and deterioration in clinical condition that may indicate the need for further and changed treatment.
 - 3.2. Adjust clinical treatments in response to monitoring according to scope of practice and organisational standard treatment protocols or emergency procedures.
 - 3.3. Maintain continuity of care until client's emergency presentation is stabilised or clinical handover to other medical service is completed.
 - 3.4. Convey accurate and complete information about the emergency presentation and treatment response to

individuals involved in the client's ongoing care.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	interpret sometimes complex and unfamiliar standard treatment protocols and client records involving medical terminology and abbreviations.
Writing skills to:	use fundamental sentence structure, health terminology and abbreviations to complete forms and reports that require factual information.
Oral communication skills to:	- provide unambiguous information to clients and carers using plain language and terms easily understood - ask open and closed probe questions and actively listen to elicit information from clients and carers and determine understanding of information provided.
Numeracy skills to:	- interpret sometimes complex medical numerical data and abbreviations in standard treatment protocols and client records - take and record accurate measurements involving pressures, rates and degrees.
Technology skills to:	select and use medical equipment suited to purpose of emergency health assessments and treatments.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTAHW013 Respond to emergencies.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>

Assessment Requirements for HLTAEDR002 Assess and respond to medical emergencies

Modification History

Not applicable.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- clinically assess and respond to five medical emergencies that collectively include presentations involving:
 - illness
 - injury
 - at least one situation involving two or more casualties
- for each of the five medical emergencies:
 - complete a primary and secondary survey of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients
 - provide required clinical treatment
 - create or update client records
- from case study documentation of emergency medical situations, identify and report on:
 - two situations that require involvement of emergency services
 - two situations that require assistance from a medical practitioner or other health professional.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- organisational policies and procedures for responding to medical emergencies:
 - standard treatment protocols for emergency care including standard treatment manuals (STM):
 - purpose, format and inclusions
 - how to use to identify emergency examination requirements and treatment options
 - scope of emergency services and treatments provided, and who is authorised to provide
 - emergency services and treatments beyond individual and organisational capacity
 - procedures for assessing and responding to emergencies outside of the health service environment
 - medical emergencies requiring evacuation or referral and associated procedures

- specific roles and responsibilities for medical emergency situations, including lines of authority and supervision, and chain of command
- special considerations for providing emergency treatments under the direction of a medical or other authorised practitioner
- consideration of clients' advanced care directive when responding to medical emergencies
- local, state or territory government and private agencies, and health services involved in different types of medical emergencies and their key roles
- equipment, procedures and requirements for making a clinical assessment of emergency presentations:
 - primary survey and variation for medical cardiac arrests:
 - danger
 - response
 - circulation
 - airway
 - breathing
 - secondary survey:
 - comprehensive history
 - vital sign survey
 - head-to-toe physical examination
- emergency care responses and equipment requirements for:
 - allergic reactions
 - bites, stings and poisonings
 - burns including minor and major:
 - different types of burns
 - how to assess severity
 - wound management
 - choking and airway obstruction
 - drug reactions:
 - adverse reaction to medications
 - drug overdose
 - fits and seizures
 - hyperglycaemic emergencies
 - severe hypoglycaemia
 - hypothermia
 - injuries:
 - abdomen and pelvis
 - bleeding
 - chest
 - head
 - limbs

- soft tissue
- spinal including risk and assessment
- meningitis
- near hanging
- nausea and vomiting
- presentations associated with illness:
 - acute life-threatening illness
 - worsening chronic illness
- pre-term and unplanned labour and births
- respiratory distress
- shock
- unconscious person
- broader considerations when handling medical emergencies arising from:
 - attempted suicide
 - domestic and family violence
 - existing health conditions
 - drug overdose
- community cultural values and beliefs that may influence clinical response options to different types of emergencies
- medical record keeping and reporting requirements specific to emergencies:
 - key information to be recorded
 - processes for clinical handover to other practitioners or medical services
 - registers for emergency care including lessons learned registers.

Assessment Conditions

Skills can only be demonstrated during simulated activities that include the following to reflect real medical emergency situations:

- involvement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients experiencing the medical emergency
- time constraints
- unexpected events.

Assessment must ensure the use of:

- medical equipment required for specific type of medical emergency response
- communication device to support interactions with other agencies and individuals
- standard treatment protocols for emergency care which can include Standard Treatment Manuals
- organisational policies and procedures for responding to medical emergencies.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who has applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency through experience working as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander practitioner, or
- be a registered health practitioner with experience relevant to this unit of competency and be accompanied by, or have assessments validated by, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Links

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