

# Creating Exam Items

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Daniel Limmer  
Chief Knowledge Officer  
Limmer Education

Director of Innovation  
National Medical Education  
and Training Center



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A background image showing the silhouettes of several people in a meeting or classroom setting. One person in the foreground is pointing upwards. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A green triangle is visible in the bottom-left corner of the slide.

**The new NREMT questions:  
How bad is it?**

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## Pass Rates 1/1/2024 - 6/30/2024

Level	Number of Candidates	First Attempt Pass Rate
AEMT	3144	62%
Paramedic	5983	73%

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## Pass Rates 7/1/2024 - 7/30/2024

Level	Number of Candidates	First Attempt Pass Rate
AEMT	187	73% ↑ 11%
Paramedic	687	77% ↑ 4%

**\*Very (very) small sample sizes**

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## Pass Rates 7/1/2024 - 9/15/2024

Level	Number of Candidates	First Attempt Pass Rate
AEMT	878	65% ↑ 3%
Paramedic	3893	73% 0%

\*Still small sample sizes

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## NREMT TEI Questions

- Drag and drop
- Build lists
- Option boxes
- Multiple response
- Clinical judgment (ALS)

Doesn't have to be high tech.

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Exams should reflect practice.

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**If you test superficially,  
your students will learn superficially.**

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**If you test comprehensively,  
your students will learn comprehensively.**

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A dark blue, semi-transparent background image of a classroom with rows of desks and chairs.

**Make your own exams.**

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A dark blue, semi-transparent background image of a classroom with rows of desks and chairs.

**Words Matter**

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# Words Matter: Use Terminology

## Top Ten Ominous Words on the NREMT Exam

- Shallow
- Altered
- Pale
- Weak
- Diaphoretic/clammy
- Noisy
- Diminished
- Tired
- Cyanotic
- Tearing

# Words Matter: Make every word count.

**An unresponsive 4-month-old child is lying limp in their father's arms. He tells you that they were having an asthma attack but is better now. Their conjunctivae are pale and moist. You are only able to auscultate faint wheezes in the upper chest. The vital signs are P 76 and R 18. You should first**





An unresponsive 4 month old child is lying limp in their father's arms. He tells you that they were having an asthma attack but is better now. Their conjunctivae are pale and moist. You are only able to auscultate faint wheezes in the upper chest. The vital signs are P 76 and R 18. You should first



4 month old	→ Infant age group
Limp	→ Bad sign!
Asthma attack	→ Gives you a clue to history and expected findings
Better now	→ This is a test to see if you believe the patient is really better
Pale conjunctivae	→ Poor circulation
Faint Wheezes/Upper chest	→ Only faint wheezes
P 76	→ This is a relative bradycardia for this age group
R 18	→ This is slow for this age group

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An unresponsive 4-month-old child is lying limp in their father's arms. He tells you that they were having an asthma attack but is better now. Their conjunctivae are pale and moist. You are only able to auscultate faint wheezes in the upper chest. The vital signs are P 76 and R 18. You should first



- A. assess her oxygen saturation level.
- ✓ B. assist her ventilation with a BVM.
- C. administer oxygen by non-rebreather mask.
- D. assist with the administration of her nebulized albuterol.

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# Use Twisted Sisters

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A 45-year-old was found by bystanders unresponsive on the street. You arrive to find the patient sitting up and appearing confused. You observe a small streak of blood on the side of the patient's mouth. As you speak to the patient, they become less confused.

Choose the condition the patient presents with and your treatment.

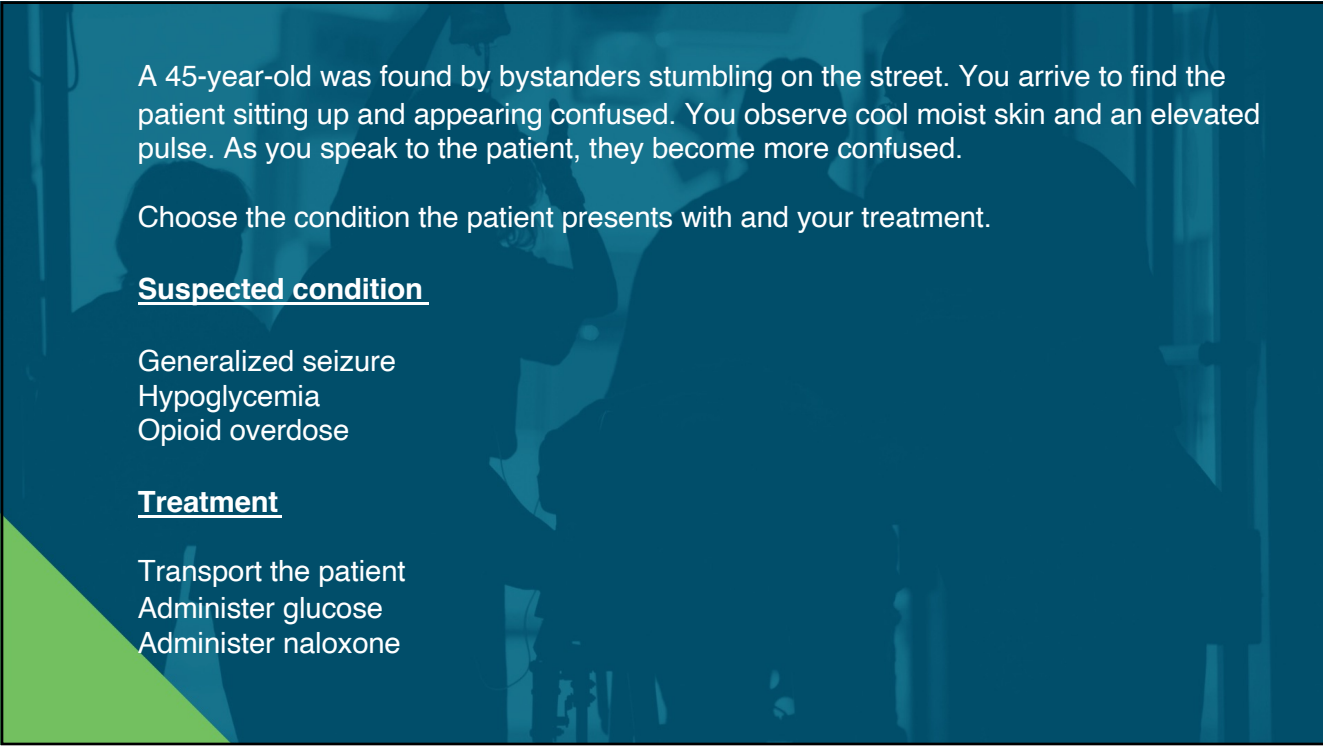
## Suspected condition

Generalized seizure  
Hypoglycemia  
Opioid overdose

## Treatment

Transport the patient  
Administer glucose  
Administer naloxone

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A 45-year-old was found by bystanders stumbling on the street. You arrive to find the patient sitting up and appearing confused. You observe cool moist skin and an elevated pulse. As you speak to the patient, they become more confused.

Choose the condition the patient presents with and your treatment.

**Suspected condition**

Generalized seizure  
Hypoglycemia  
Opioid overdose

**Treatment**

Transport the patient  
Administer glucose  
Administer naloxone

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A 45-year-old was found by bystanders unresponsive on the street. You arrive to find the patient unresponsive with shallow respirations. Vital signs P 96, R 8, BP 116/70, SpO2 90%.

Choose the condition the patient presents with and your treatment.

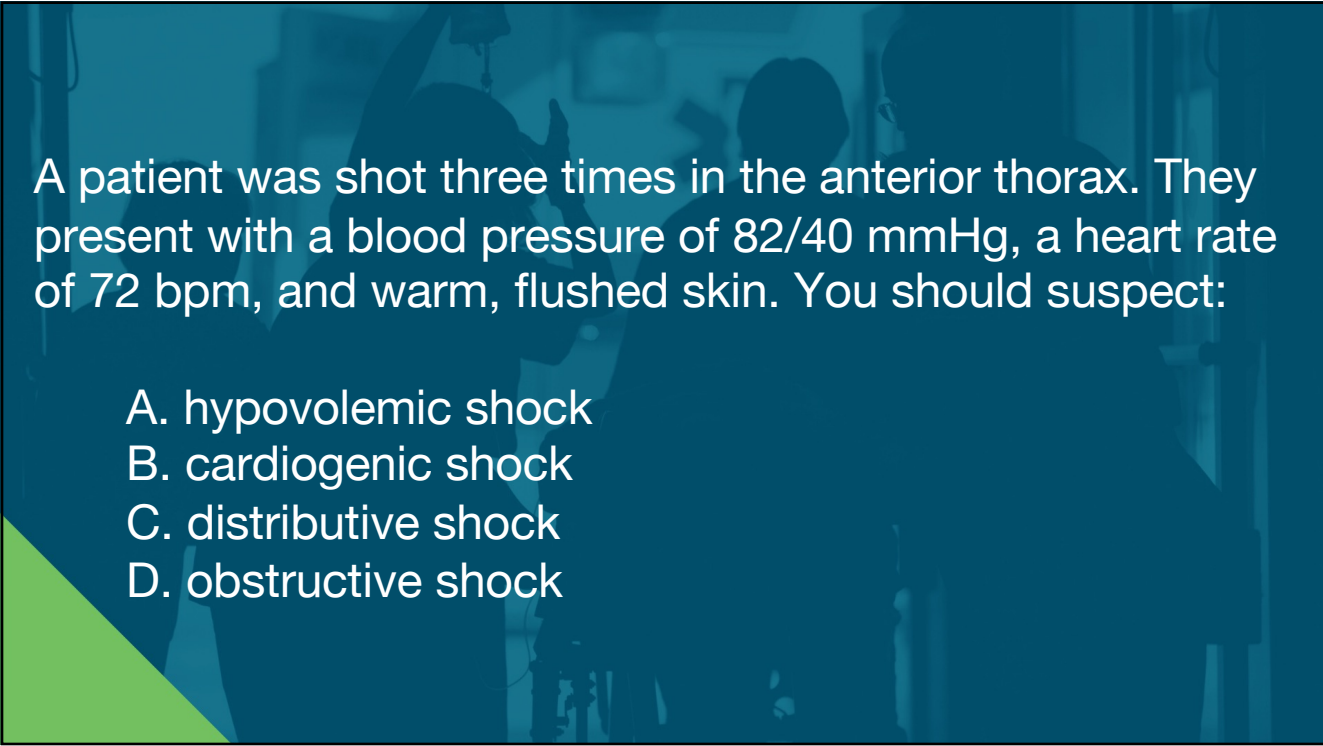
**Suspected condition**

Generalized seizure  
Hypoglycemia  
Opioid overdose

**Treatment**

Transport the patient  
Administer glucose  
Administer naloxone

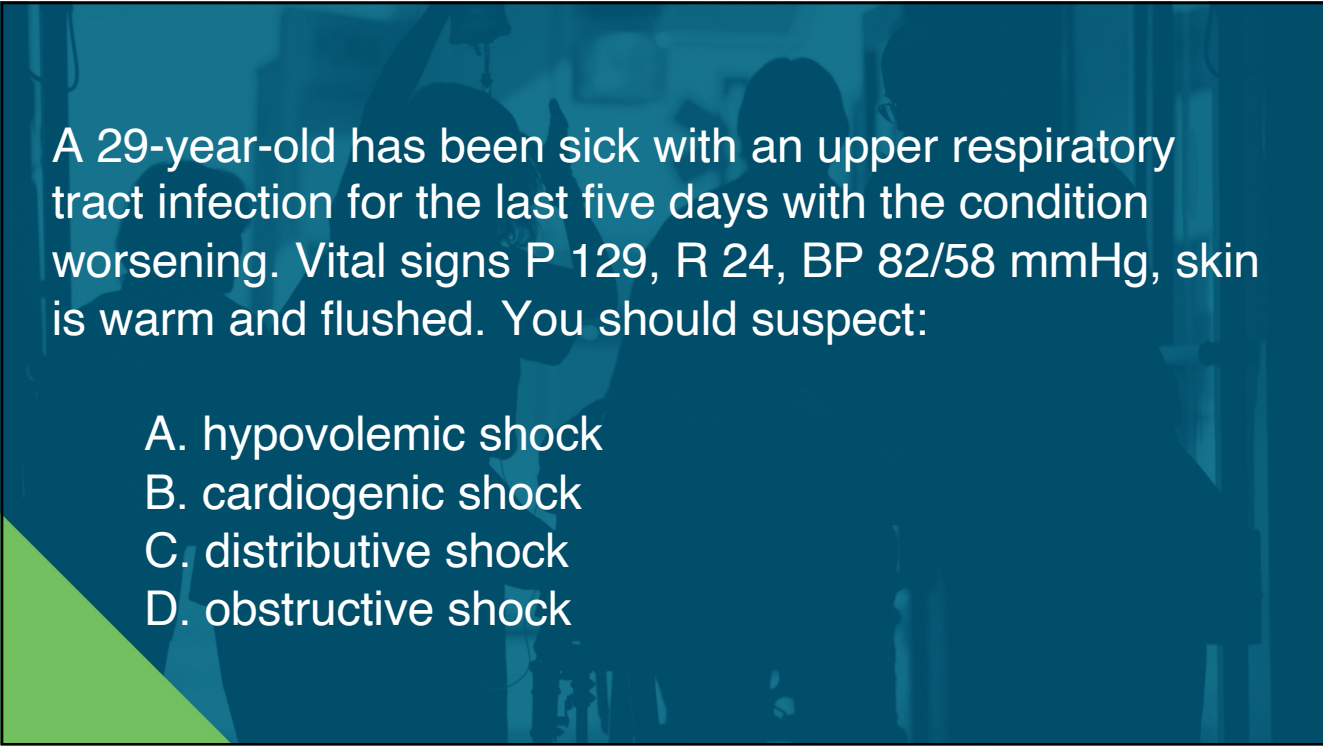
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A patient was shot three times in the anterior thorax. They present with a blood pressure of 82/40 mmHg, a heart rate of 72 bpm, and warm, flushed skin. You should suspect:

- A. hypovolemic shock
- B. cardiogenic shock
- C. distributive shock
- D. obstructive shock

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A 29-year-old has been sick with an upper respiratory tract infection for the last five days with the condition worsening. Vital signs P 129, R 24, BP 82/58 mmHg, skin is warm and flushed. You should suspect:

- A. hypovolemic shock
- B. cardiogenic shock
- C. distributive shock
- D. obstructive shock

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# Document a Source for all Questions

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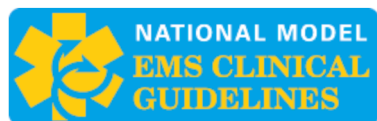
## PROJECTS

### Model EMS Clinical Guidelines


#### Model Clinical Guidelines Version 3 Now Available

The NASEMSO Model EMS Clinical Guidelines project team is delighted to unveil Version 3 of the [National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines](#). In completing Version 3, the project team has reviewed and updated all existing guidelines, as well as added four new guidelines. Version 3 of the Guidelines, similar to the original version released in 2014, was completed by a team of EMS and specialty physicians comprised of members of the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council and representatives from six EMS medical director stakeholder organizations. In addition, all guidelines were reviewed by a team of pediatric emergency medicine physicians, pharmacologists and other technical reviewers.

#### Overview



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**2021**

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## Prehospital Guidelines Consortium

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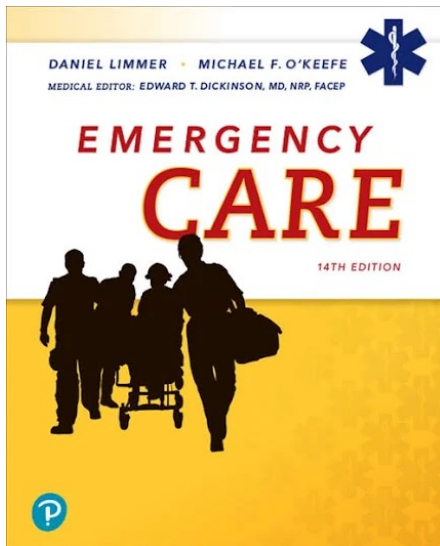


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Topic	Reference
Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations for Acute Stroke Management: Prehospital, Emergency Department, and Acute Inpatient Stroke Care, 6th Edition, Update 2018	<a href="#">Boulanger et al. 2018</a>
Review article: Paediatric status epilepticus in the pre-hospital setting: An update	<a href="#">Furyk et al. 2017</a>
European Academy of Neurology and European Stroke Organization consensus statement and practical guidance for pre-hospital management of stroke	<a href="#">Kobayashi et al. 2018</a>
Prehospital care delivery and triage of stroke with emergent large vessel occlusion (ELVO): report of the Standards and Guidelines Committee of the Society of Neurointerventional Surgery	<a href="#">Pride et al. 2017</a>

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Textbook Reference?

The NREMT is textbook, state and educator neutral.

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What makes a  
challenging question?

What makes a  
challenging question?

Choosable distractors!



The large bone found in the thigh is called the

- A. tibia.
- B. humerus.
- C. liver.
- D. femur.



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A challenging question with  
fewer words is masterful.

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While resuscitating a 72-year-old male his wife asks to stay with her husband. You should

- A. ask her to leave the room.
- B. allow her to remain in the room.
- C. assign a crew member to take her to another room.
- D. tell her that HIPAA requires that she not be present.

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Which of the following signs would be considered the most reliable indicator of apnea?

- A. Cyanosis
- B. Lack of chest movement
- C. Unable to feel breath on your cheek
- D. Absence of extremity movement

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# Last words...

- Think practice as well as class
- Words: use fewer words, and words that mean something/are necessary
- Twisted sisters are time savers
- Distractors should distract
- Exams evaluate, motivate, and prepare for the NREMT

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# Creating Exam Items

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# Thank you!

[dan@limmereducation.com](mailto:dan@limmereducation.com)

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