Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA)

Objectives

- Identify key concepts of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA)
- Discuss how to handle specific populations e.g. minors, incompetency individuals under EMTALA
- Describe the policies and procedures that must be followed by hospitals relating to the EMTALA law
- Outline the process of incoming and outgoing transfers under EMTALA
- Review the concept of informed consent and how it relates to EMTALA
- Summarize how to handle individuals who leave before care is received or refuse care

Content Outline

1. Key Concepts of EMTALA
   - A. Medical screening examination
   - B. Emergency medical condition
   - C. Transfer rules
2. Special Populations
   - A. Minors with or without a parent
   - B. Impaired, incapacitated, or incompetent individuals
   - C. Those accompanied by police officers or who are prison inmates
   - D. Those with religious beliefs that can conflict with recommended treatment
   - E. Pregnant individuals
3. Policies and Procedures
   - A. Central log and maintenance of records
   - B. Required policies and procedures development
   - C. Stabilization requirements
   - D. Medical documentation
4. Transfers
   - A. Definition
   - B. Types of transfers
   - C. Follow up care
5. Informed Consent
   - A. Federal vs state law
   - B. Implied consent
   - C. When in doubt rule
   - D. Parens patriae
6. Refusal of Care or Leaving Against Medical Advice

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Reading Material Resources

Module WB2616: Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) is based on the resource listed below. A copy of the resource is included with the module.

Chapter e7 Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act and Medicolegal Issues, Rosen's Emergency Medicine: Concepts and Clinical Practice, Walls, et al., Elsevier, 2023, 2452-e64-75