

**Student
Guide
Preview**



Emergency Oxygen

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 **First Aid**

MEDIC First Aid

Emergency Oxygen

Student Guide

Version 7.0

Purpose of this Guide

This MEDIC First Aid *Emergency Oxygen Version 7.0 Student Guide* is solely intended to facilitate certification in a MEDIC First Aid Emergency Oxygen training class. The information in this guide is furnished for that purpose and is subject to change without notice.

MEDIC First Aid certification may only be issued when a MEDIC First Aid-authorized Instructor verifies a student has successfully completed the required core knowledge and skill objectives of the program.

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The Case for Emergency Oxygen

Found in the air we breathe, oxygen is the most essential element the human body requires in order to live.

When a serious illness or injury occurs, the body's ability to process oxygen can be compromised.

Low levels of oxygen in the body, or hypoxia, can result in a deteriorating condition known as shock.

Unless the effects of the decreased amount of oxygen can be reversed, shock can quickly progress into a life-threatening emergency.

Basic priority care considerations, such as maintaining a clear and open airway, ensuring adequate breathing, and controlling external bleeding, should always be your initial priorities of care for an ill or injured person.



The use of emergency oxygen by a first aid provider can help meet an ill or injured person's critical need for oxygen to further improve the person's outcome.

Many medical authorities recommend that a person be provided the highest concentration of oxygen available during many medical emergencies.

The air we breathe contains about 21% oxygen. In an emergency, oxygen delivery systems can potentially increase oxygen percentages close to 100%.

Conditions that could benefit from emergency oxygen include the following:

- Divers with a decompression injury
- Serious bleeding
- Difficulty breathing
- Suspected internal injury
- Warning signs of serious illness
- Serious mechanisms of injury

Regulatory Considerations

State or local regulations regarding the requirement for medical control and direction with the use of emergency oxygen can vary. Always be familiar with and comply with any state and local regulations.

There are few significant medical risks when providing supplemental oxygen in an emergency. When in doubt, provide emergency oxygen for someone who shows signs of respiratory difficulty, if it is available, local protocols allow, and you are trained in its use.

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