EMS Board Certification

It’s the Way to Go!!!

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UT Southwestern Medical Center and
Parkland Memorial Hospital
Terry......GET READY!!!!!!
What's the Problem, Terry????

Gotten a little NERVOUS in your old age, hmmmm?
Full Definition of SPECIALTY

plural specialties

Origin of SPECIALTY

Middle English specialte, from Anglo-French especialté, from Late Latin specialitat-, specialitas, from Latin specialis special

First Known Use: 15th century

1 : the state of being special, distinctive, or peculiar

3 : something in which one specializes
The History of Specialization

To a certain extent, medical practitioners have always been specialized. According to Galen, specialization was common among Roman physicians. The particular system of modern medical specialties evolved gradually during the 19th century. Informal social recognition of medical specialization evolved before the formal legal system.
Critical Events Leading to EMS as a Specialty

The Lessons Learned from War
1960: Safar et al describe CPR
1966: NAS and DOT
1967: First EMT Curriculum
1970: National Registry formed
1971: First Paramedic Curriculum
1972 – 1977: Johnny and Roy
1979: EM becomes a specialty
Critical Events Leading to EMS as a Specialty

1980: First EM Boards given
1984: NAEMSP founded
1985: First NAEMSP national meeting
Late 80’s: First EMS Med Director course
1990’s and beyond: Advance of evidence
2000’s and beyond: ROC, CARES, COMPASS
2010: EMS Medicine Sub-Specialty
2013: The First EMS Medicine Boards
The 2012 Core Content of Emergency Medical Services Medicine is published in Prehospital Emergency Care, posted online January 10, 2012:


The Core Content was developed by the EMS Examination Task Force of ABEM. The Core Content defines the content for the 2013 initial certification examination for the ABEM Subspecialty of EMS Medicine.
The Core Content of EMS Medicine

The core content of emergency medical services medicine.

2012 Jan 10.
The Core Content of EMS Medicine

The Core Content of EMS Medicine

# The Core Content of EMS Medicine

The following table outlines the core competencies for EMS medicine, as defined by the ACGME and ABMS.

## 1.0 CLINICAL ASPECTS OF EMS MEDICINE

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<th>Medical Judgment</th>
<th>Practice-based Learning</th>
<th>Professionalism</th>
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### 2.0 MEDICAL OVERSIGHT OF EMS

#### 2.1 MEDICAL OVERSIGHT

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#### 2.1.2 Legal issues

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<tr>
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<td>2.1.2.4 Capacity to refuse care</td>
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Why Should We Take the Boards?

✧ Standardizing of EMS systems
✧ Establishing a common vocabulary
✧ Constant state of study
✧ Running an EMS system is not necessarily a genetically acquired skill
Why Should We Take the Boards?

✦ Dealing with the thorny issues seen recently in Washington, D.C.
✦ http://www.jems.com/articles/2016/02/d-c-medical-director-explains-toxic-culture.html
✦ Watch the video!!!!
What is some of the knowledge needed to pass the boards?

✧ The Emergency Support Functions
✧ How to do research
✧ Mass gatherings
✧ Establishing due process
✧ Important NFPA standards
What is some of the knowledge needed to pass the boards?

- NDMS
- The Stafford Act
- How to train providers
- How to RE-train providers
- Discipline in EMS systems
- Maintaining CQI Programs
So, Terry, what’s the problem?

That is

ONE FREAKING HARD TEST!!!!!
Some 500 or so EMS physicians thus far barely a 50% pass rate for the blue hairs.
Some 750 or so physicians so far

Thousands more to go!!!
The Results so Far!!!

EMS Medicine is the LARGEST ABEM Subspecialty

- EMS Medicine: 459!!!
- Medical Toxicology: 404
- Pediatric EM: 294
- Hyperbaric Medicine: 197
- Sports Medicine: 161
- Hospice/Palliative Care: 114
What is the future of EMS medicine?

- We ARE a Specialty!
- Proof of quality care is the future!
- The EMS Compass project is NOW!
- The Advance of Evidence
- There will be more boarded docs
- More progressive EMS systems will REQUIRE EMS Board Certification
- States will REQUIRE Certification
We take care of all conditions

✦ All ages
✦ All hours
✦ All scenes
What is the difference between the Boarded vs. Non-boarded EMS Doc

It is “experience alone” as opposed to TARGETED STUDY
What will drive this specialty?

The gaining of experience **WHILE EMBRACING**

the advance of evidence!
What will drive this specialty?

The mining of ENORMOUS databases of clinical care
So, how did I pass that test?

- I got lucky
- I took EM Recert the month before: Study mode!!
- Writing the EMS Board Review Course and giving it 3 times
People said, “Of course you passed! You were an author!”

I said, “I helped WRITE the damn book, I didn’t READ IT!!!”
So, Terry, I mean REALLY!!!

If enough EMS physicians don’t challenge the Boards, they might just go away….

so they should put on their Kevlar and GO FOR IT!!!!!
I mean, REALLY, TERRY!!!

Are we a specialty....

....or not???
When I was a young laddie...

Would EM EVER be a widely accepted specialty?
Fast Forward 20 years from now

Where Will We Be?
Ruminations upon Closing
As you prepare for that God-forsaken test…

✧ Take the EMS Subspecialty Review Course
✧ Take the Online Prep Questions
✧ Go to my website for my study materials
✧ We will guide you to other great resources
A final unsolicited thought

*I call on ABEM to study the pass rates of those challenging the examination who are NOT native English speakers*
So TERRY

Let’s Hear it!
Oh, and Terry….be careful out there
www.gatheringofeagles.us
www.rayfowler.com