

## EMS Subspecialty Certification Review Course

### 1.5.2 Special Populations

2025



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### Learning Objectives

Upon the completion of this program participants will be able to:

- Define the term “special populations.”
- List the 10 examples of special needs populations.
- Discuss the daily challenges faced by EMS providers in dealing with special populations.
- Describe potential challenges in disaster situations associate with special populations.
- Discuss strategies for working with special populations.



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### Special Populations

- Diverse groups with a variety of “special needs.”
- Groups whose needs may not be fully met by traditional service providers and standard resources
- Providers may lack:
  - Equipment
  - Sensitivity
  - Knowledge



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## Special Populations

- Mental/Physical Disabilities
- Economic disadvantages
- Limited English
- Mobility limitations
- Chemical dependence
- Pets/Service animals
- Home healthcare devices
- Chronic illness
- Pediatrics
- Bariatrics
- Elderly
- Homeless
- Religious/cultural
- Migrants
- Non Traditional lifestyles
- Assault/Rape victims
- Many more....



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## Tip #3

**Focus on  
the high yield material.**

**Corollary:  
Don't waste your time  
on low yield material.**



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## Diverse Groups / Diverse Needs

- Ensure system and provider awareness
- Identify special populations in your jurisdiction
  - Anticipate needs
  - Investigate existing strategies
  - Work with groups / local resources



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## Disasters

- A challenging situation becomes more challenging
  - Evacuation
  - Lack of electricity
  - Home oxygen, medications, pets, shelter, etc...
- Strategies
  - GIS mapping of patients with special needs
  - Pre-Plan
  - Consider shelter in place
  - Stage resources



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## Potential Test Questions

- Definition of special populations
  - Groups whose needs may not be fully met by traditional service providers and standard resources
- Why special populations can be challenging for EMS
  - Providers may lack, equipment, sensitivity, knowledge
- Why disasters pose additional concerns
  - Evacuation, mobility, lack meds, equipment...



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## Take-Home Points

- This topic is part of the EMS core content
  - Clinical Aspects of EMS - 40% Test questions
- Take home points
  - Special populations are diverse groups with diverse needs
  - The traditional EMS systems may not be adequately prepared
  - Pre-planning for daily operations and disasters is essential



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