



How to succeed on a Fisdap exam

Fisdap exams are uniquely designed to assess your knowledge and critical thinking ability. Experienced EMS instructors from across the country work together to construct test questions, and every question is reviewed by subject matter experts as well as a board certified Emergency Physician. After you finish the exam and quizzes, we hope you will come away with a good sense of what you mastered and your areas for improvement. Our goal for our practice exams is for you to feel prepared and confident for you for your national or state certification exam. Please take advantage of the guidelines below.

Knowing the information in your textbook is a great foundation for succeeding on the Fisdap exams, which ask you to apply that knowledge and think critically to solve real life EMS problems. We also recommend completing the workbook that comes with the textbook your class is using so that you can review and retain the information you're learning.

You'll notice 3 different types of questions on the Fisdap exams, and we write our questions this way specifically because this is what you will encounter on the NREMT. Understanding the wording of the questions will help you to correctly identify the answer.

- **What should you do?** Questions that end in "*What should you do?*" are asking you to apply knowledge to treat a patient as you would in the field. You should select the best treatment option available from the choices given. If you are having trouble picking the best answer because more than one option seems "right," imagine that there is a "next," "first," or "most importantly" at the end of this type of question, as if the question actually reads, "You should next," or "You should most important," or "You should first."
- **What should suspect?** Questions that end in "*What should you suspect?*" are asking you to suspect underlying problems or conditions that are described in the question. Think of the condition that is the most life threatening. You should suspect the most dangerous condition.
- **What is the most likely cause?** Questions that end in "*What is the most likely cause?*" are asking you to think about the most probable cause or condition based on the symptoms. In this type of question you are NOT



being asked about what might be the worst possible problem, but rather the most likely.

You may not be used to seeing challenging critical thinking questions on exams, so here are some additional test-taking tips:

1. Read the question completely and imagine what you should do to take care of the patient. We recommend doing this before you even look at the possible answers.
2. Read the possible answers completely and choose the BEST answer (since there may be more than one plausible choice it is best not to think of the "correct" one).
3. Once you have read the entire question and all possible answers, pick the one you think is best and don't second-guess yourself. Many times, your first answer will be the correct one.
4. During the test, if your instructor allows, we encourage you to write down words and concepts you did not know or understand on a blank piece of paper. Then, after the test, look up these terms and concepts to make sure you learn them before taking your class's final or your certification exam.
5. The questions are randomly shuffled, so don't get discouraged if you get some hard questions early in the exam. This is also true of the Computer Adaptive Testing the National Registry uses.

We wish you the best on this exam, on your certification exam, and ultimately in your new career as an EMS professional!