

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of environmental conditions and their effects on patients in an ambulance context		
Level	5	Credits	6

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is intended for people who are working in an ambulance context, and who are responsible for developing management plans for patients, making appropriate decisions, and who need to be able to do this independently.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to demonstrate knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – hypothermia-related conditions and develop a management plan for a patient with hypothermia in an ambulance context; – hyperthermia-related conditions and develop a management plan for a patient with hyperthermia in an ambulance context; – diving-related illnesses and develop a management plan for a patient with a diving related illness in an ambulance context; – drowning emergencies and develop a management plan for a patient with effects of drowning emergencies in an ambulance context; and – special environmental emergencies and develop a management plan for a patient with effects of special environmental emergencies in an ambulance context.
----------------	--

Classification	Emergency Services > Ambulance
-----------------------	--------------------------------

Available grade	Achieved
------------------------	----------

Prerequisites	Unit 29323, <i>Gather and record information to support patient assessment</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
----------------------	--

Guidance Information

1 Definitions

Ambulance context – situations where emergency care is delivered in a variety of out-of-hospital environments. Out-of-hospital environments refer to any situation in which people require medical assistance outside of a controlled medical environment, such as a medical centre. These out-of-hospital environments include situations both in and away from an ambulance vehicle.

Best practice – for the purposes of this standard, a clinical technique or methodology that has proven to be most effective at delivering a desired outcome and is actively

promoted across the ambulance and/or emergency care sector.

Clinical procedures and guidelines – the written procedures particular to each ambulance service and endorsed by Ambulance New Zealand.

Standing orders – written instructions issued by a medical practitioner that authorise individuals engaged in the delivery of health services to supply and administer certain medicines without a prescription in circumstances specified in the instruction.

2 References

Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) Regulations 1996;
and all subsequent amendments and replacements.

3 Range

Performance in relation to the outcome in this unit standard is to comply with current clinical procedures and guidelines and/or standing orders and/or current best practice and be appropriate to the patient's condition.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of hypothermia-related conditions and develop a management plan for a patient with hypothermia in an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe the conditions under which hypothermia may occur according to their severity.
- 1.2 Describe the stages of hypothermia according to the pathophysiology.
- 1.3 Describe how the body's homeostatic mechanisms work to maintain normal body temperature.
- 1.4 Describe the general management steps for patients with hypothermia.
- 1.5 Describe specific therapies used in the management of patients with hypothermia.
- 1.6 Develop, explain, and justify a management plan for a patient with hypothermia.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate knowledge of hyperthermia-related conditions and develop a management plan for a patient with hyperthermia in an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe the conditions under which hyperthermia may occur according to their severity.
- 2.2 Describe the stages of hyperthermia according to the pathophysiology.

- 2.3 Describe how the body's homeostatic mechanisms work to maintain normal body temperature.
- 2.4 Describe the general management steps for patients with hyperthermia.
- 2.5 Describe specific therapies used in the management of patients with hyperthermia.
- 2.6 Develop, explain, and justify a management plan for a patient with hyperthermia.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate knowledge of diving-related illnesses and develop a management plan for a patient with a diving-related illness in an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Describe common diving-related illnesses according to their effects on body function.
- 3.2 Describe signs and symptoms of common diving-related illnesses.
- 3.3 Describe the general management steps for patients with diving-related illnesses.
- 3.4 Describe specific therapies used in the management of patients with diving-related illnesses.
- 3.5 Develop, explain, and justify a management plan for a patient with a diving-related illness.

Outcome 4

Demonstrate knowledge of drowning emergencies and develop a management plan for a patient with effects of drowning emergencies in an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe common drowning emergencies according to their effects on body function.
- 4.2 Describe signs and symptoms of effects of common drowning emergencies.
- 4.3 Describe the general management steps for patients with effects of drowning emergencies.
- 4.4 Describe specific therapies used in the management of patients with effects of drowning emergencies.

- 4.5 Develop, explain, and justify a management plan for a patient with effects of drowning emergencies.

Outcome 5

Demonstrate knowledge of special environmental emergencies and develop a management plan for a patient with effects of special environmental emergencies in an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Describe common special environmental emergencies according to their effects on body function.
- 5.2 Describe signs and symptoms of effects of common special environmental emergencies.
- 5.3 Describe the general management steps for patients with effects of special environmental emergencies.
- 5.4 Describe specific therapies used in the management of patients with effects of special environmental emergencies.
- Range includes but is not limited to – decontamination, scene staging, isolation.
- 5.5 Develop, explain, and justify a management plan for a patient with effects of special environmental emergencies.

Planned review date	31 December 2021
----------------------------	------------------

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	22 August 2008	31 December 2019
Review	2	5 May 2016	N/A
Revision	3	25 July 2019	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0121
--	------

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact The Skills Organisation reviewcomments@skills.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.