

A Comparative Evaluation of Emergency Medical
Technician Services of Two Illinois
Hospitals, 1979-1983

A Thesis

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ABSTRACT

In 1980 Illinois passed legislation which standardized its emergency medical technician services. This study compared and evaluated the quality of prehospital care received by critically injured vehicular patients from two Illinois hospitals, one with a paramedic service and one with an ambulance service. Application of statistical tests to the frequency of severely injured and fatal patients allowed an evaluation of the amount and character of changes in patient outcome both before and after 1980. Although the paramedic service has better equipment and a higher level of training, its patient mortality rate was higher than the ambulance's. There was no significant difference in the frequency of severely injured and fatal patients for either type of service after 1980, even when differing conditions such as weather, road surface, time of day, and distance travelled to deliver emergency care were taken into account. It appears, then, that standardizing emergency medical technician services does not substantially alter trauma patient's outcomes.