



# **Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa**

**PRACTICE GUIDELINE  
EM001**

**DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

This Practice Guideline sets out EMSSA's definition of emergency medicine.

This definition is as adopted by International Federation for Emergency Medicine (1991).

Excluding the cover page, this Practice Guideline is **2** pages.

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*EMSSA Practice Guidelines provide advice on recommended practice for emergency centres, emergency personnel and emergency care activities.*

*The information within these papers statements is advice only. EMSSA will not be held liable for clinical outcomes related to these Guidelines.*

Emergency Medicine is defined as:

A field of practice based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of undifferentiated physical and behavioural disorders. It further encompasses an understanding of the development of pre-hospital and in-hospital emergency medical systems and the skills necessary for this development.

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