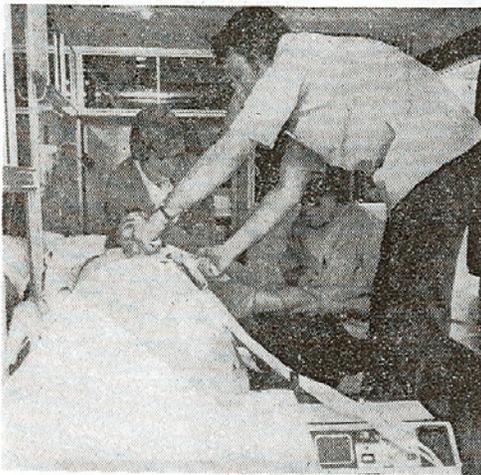




Not Watching "Emergency"

These emergency medical technicians (EMT's) are learning advanced medical treatment from local doctors via videotape. The doctors teach the EMT's delicate techniques necessary to save lives in the field. From left, are Instructor Myra Cash, James Britt and Clarence Chew of the Carolina Ambulance Service, Bill Thrasher and Ray Kannaday of Lexington Ambulance Service and Ronnie Green of York General Ambulance Service. (Staff Photo by Larry Cagle)



Treatment To Save Lives

Advanced EMT Instructor Myra Cash shows Robert Barnard and James Ard of the Lexington Ambulance Service how to use the electrocardiogram monitor. New modular ambulances have room for advanced treatment of heart patients, babies with birth complications and victims of wrecks and other accidents. Haskell Hall is pretending to be a heart patient. (Staff Photo by Larry Cagle)

Technicians Class Graduates Dec. 17

By BILL HIGGINS
Staff Writer

The advanced course for emergency medical technicians (EMT's) will graduate its second class at Richland Memorial Hospital Dec. 17.

The classes are a project of the South Carolina Hospital Association and the first in the state.

The Advanced EMT course is funded by the South Carolina Regional Medical Program and the Kellogg Foundation. It equips EMT's to give treatment in the field on cases formerly treated in the emergency room.

With a doctor's approval or by standing orders, an Advanced EMT may act to save lives as well as to transport patients by ambulance to a hospital.

The advanced training will equip EMT's to "reduce morbidity and mortality" in situations involving coronary care, trauma or neonatal care, Henry Pettit of the Carolina Ambulance Service said.

The course has been taught this session by nurses Myra Cash and Elinor Higgins. EMT's spend nearly 400 hours in classes, the clinic and the field during the course. The curriculum includes advanced coronary care, intravenous therapy, respiratory therapy, trauma, complications of labor and delivery and psychiatric emergencies. The students view twenty hours of videotapes on these subjects done by local doctors.

EMT's taking the advanced course are psychologically screened and tested and have abilities to treat patients. They must pass the 257 hours of coursework of the advanced course in addition to 87 hours of the basic course.

Twenty students graduated from the first class, held March through June. The second class began Aug. 31 and will end Dec. 5.

Twenty-one students are in the second class. Nine are from Carolina Ambulance Service, eight from Lexington County Ambulance Service and four from York General Ambulance Service.