

Patient Assessment – Responsive Medical – 5th Edition

Scene Size-Up

Initial Radio Call – “Patroller (patroller name) on scene at (location) with a young female.”

“I WILL ADVISE!”

Scene Safety

Standard Precautions (BSI)

Check for possible MOI.

Primary Assessment

Form general impression of patient.

Assess Responsiveness. (Use AVPU or GCS)

Introduce yourself and Ask **PERMISSION** to treat patient.

Ascertain **CHIEF-COMPLAINT**. (Ask patient “What is the matter??”). Determine **NOI**.

(A) **AIRWAY** – Actually look at position of airway.

(B) **BREATHING** – Look for signs of good air exchange. Actually ASK PATIENT: Are you having any trouble breathing??

(C) **CIRCULATION** – Do a capillary refill and check patient color and pallor.

INITIATE TRANSPORT DECISION AT THIS TIME IF PRIORITY ONE.

NOTE: In order to properly ascertain & treat problems with the ABC’s, you may have to interject parts of SAMPLE & OPQRST into the Primary Assessment to fully determine patient’s Chief Complaint.

Secondary Assessment

VITALS – Pulse and Respirations – Remember second set of vitals before transport.

Take 30 seconds for each vital sign! **If appropriate, get a BP as an additional baseline vital.**

****Check for medical alert tags on neck, wrist or ankle.**

SAMPLE –

(S) Signs & Symptoms

Perform OPQRST:

O – Onset – When did it start?

P – Provocation – What makes it worse or better?

Q – Quality – What is Symptom like??? Dull, sharp, or aching pain???

R – Radiation – Is it localized or does it radiate to another area???

S – Severity – How bad is it on a 1 to 10 scale???

T – Time – How long has it lasted and is it getting any better or worse???

(A) Allergies

(M) Meds

(P) Past PERTINENT Medical History

(L) Last oral intake/Meal

(E) Events leading up to event.

(More on Back)

Patient Assessment – Responsive Medical – 5th Edition (cont.)

Focused Physical Exam– Perform actual focused exam of the body area on patient’s chief complaint. **PALPATE AREA.** (Yes, even for medical patients!)

Radio Call – To get equipment, transport decision (if not already done), man-power, describe illness with classification and vitals. “Patroller to Base – I have a 14 y.o. female with generalized weakness and nausea. Vitals are P82 and regular, R 16, and regular. I will require a toboggan and one extra patroller at this time.”

When ready to transport – “Patroller to Base. I am transporting to Base, ETA is three minutes and would like stretcher to meet me at the base.”

*Consider the following medical Treatments & skills, remembering that the leading cause of “Altered Mental Status” is **HYPOXIA & HYPOGLYCEMIA:***

- 1. Oxygen Therapy- immediate*
- 2. Glucose by PO - for Alert hypoglycemic patients*
- 3. Nitroglycerin Pills & Patches –ASSIST ONLY for Chest Pain patients*
- 4. Epinephrine – ASSIST ONLY for Allergic reactions*
- 5. Inhalers – ASSIST ONLY for Asthma and other COPD Patients*
- 6. Cincinnati Stroke Scale Evaluation for Stroke Patients*
- 7. Lung Auscultation for COPD Patients*
- 8. Blood Pressure for ALL Medical Patients*