Health ONE EMS
Emergency Medical Services

Assessment of the Medical Patient

Medical Assessment

Must determine if:

- Responsive Medical Patient or
- Unresponsive Medical Patient

Focused History and Physical Exam

Responsive Medical Patient

Steps in Focused History and Physical Exam

- History of Present Illness
  - O = Onset
  - P = Provocation
  - Q = Quality
  - R = Radiation
  - S = Severity
  - T = Time

- SAMPLE History
  - S = Signs and symptoms
  - A = Allergies
  - M = Medications
  - P = Pertinent past history
  - L = Last oral intake
  - E = Events leading to injury or illness

SAMPLE & OPQRST

- Patient should be initial source of information
- Family and friends may also be a useful source
- Certain medical conditions and

chief complaints may allow for further treatment and/or assessment
- In these case, you will need to get certain additional information

Get additional information for:

- Chest pain
  - With prescribed nitroglycerin
- Difficulty beathing
  - With prescribed inhaler
- Allergies
  - With prescribed epinephrine auto-injector

Baseline Vital Signs

- Respirations
- Pulse
- Skin color, temperature, condition
- Pupils
- Blood pressure
- Oxygen saturation, according to local protocol

Further Steps

- Provide any interventions required for specific conditions
- Transport the patient

Focused History and Physical Exam

Unresponsive Medical Patient

Rapid Assessment/Baseline Vital Signs

- Respirations

- Pulse
- Skin color, temperature, condition
- Pupils
- Blood pressure
- Oxygen saturation, according to local protocol

History of Present Illness

- O = Onset
- P = Provocation
- Q = Quality
- R = Radiation
- S = Severity
- T = Time

SAMPLE History

Get SAMPLE history from bystanders, family, or friends

Further Steps

- Provide any interventions required for specific conditions
- Transport the patient

Review Questions

- What is the order of the focused history and physical exam of a responsive medical patient?
- What do the letters in OPQRST stand for?
- What questions do you ask to get a SAMPLE history?
- What is the order of the four steps in the focused history and physical exam of an unresponsive medical patient?

Street Scenes

- What is the priority of this patient?
- What are the next steps in the management of this patient?
- What part of the focused history and physical exam should follow next?
- What signs or symptoms would you look for to determine if the patient were getting better or worse?