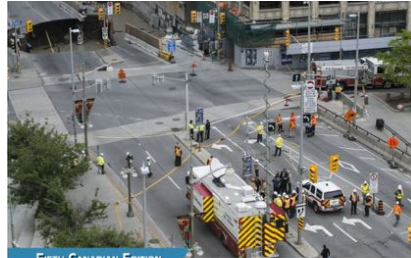


Emergency Medical Responder: A Skills Approach

Fifth Canadian Edition



FIFTH CANADIAN EDITION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

A SKILLS APPROACH

MEETS PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA'S
NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE



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Chapter 11

Patient Assessment

Objectives (1 of 3)

- Summarize the reasons for forming a general impression of the patient.
- Describe methods and demonstrate techniques for the primary assessment, including level of consciousness, airway, breathing, and circulation.
- Explain the reason for prioritizing a patient for care and transport.
- Discuss the DOTS mnemonic involved in the secondary assessment.



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Objectives (2 of 3)

- Explain and demonstrate the assessment of the five vital signs.
- Differentiate between a sign and a symptom.
- Discuss the components of the SAMPLE history.
- Discuss the four components of the ongoing assessment.

Objectives (3 of 3)

- Explain the rationale for the feelings that the patient may be experiencing.
- Describe the information included in the EMR hand-off report.
- Demonstrate a caring attitude toward the patient and family during patient assessment while giving priority to the interests of the patient.

Figure 11–1 Patient Assessment Plan

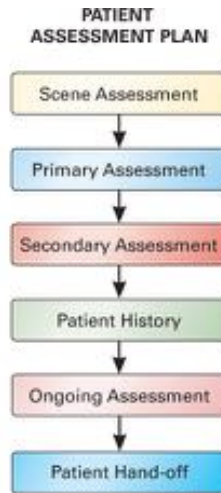


Figure 11–1 Patient assessment plan.

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Figure 11–2 The Primary Assessment Takes About a Minute

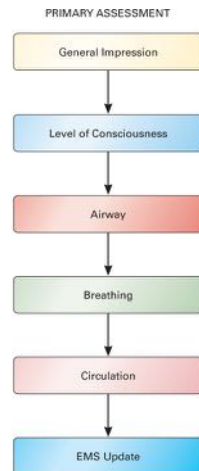


Figure 11–2 The primary assessment takes about a minute.

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Primary Assessment (1 of 5)

Level of Consciousness

1. Alert
2. Verbal
3. Painful
4. Unconscious

Primary Assessment (2 of 5)

Airway

- **Conscious patient** – can respond to your questions and speak clearly
- **Unconscious patient** – ensure the airway is open

Primary Assessment (3 of 5)

Signs of inadequate breathing

Breathing rates:
fewer than 8 in adults
fewer than 10 in children
fewer than 20 in infants

Inadequate chest wall motion

Cyanosis

Mental status changes

Increased effort to breathe

Gasping and
grunting

Slow heart rate
accompanied
by slow
breathing rate

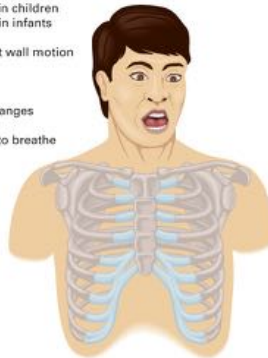


Figure 11-8 Signs of inadequate breathing.

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Primary Assessment (4 of 5)

Circulation

- **Conscious patient** –
use the radial pulse to assess circulation
- **Unconscious patient** –
check pulse at carotid artery

After checking the patient's pulse, check for serious external bleeding



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Primary Assessment (5 of 5)

EMS Update

Report the following:

1. Age and gender of patient
2. Chief complaint
3. Level of consciousness (LOC)
4. Airway and breathing status
5. Circulation

Secondary Assessment

Methods of Examination

- Inspection
- Auscultation
- Palpation

Look for DOTS

- Deformities (D)
- Open injuries (O)
- Tenderness (T)
- Swelling (S)

Figure 11–15 Components of the Secondary Assessment

THE SECONDARY ASSESSMENT

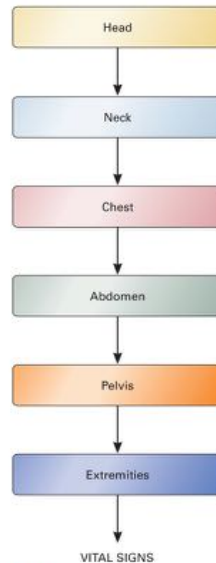


Figure 11–15 Components of the secondary assessment.

Figure 11–26 Vital signs

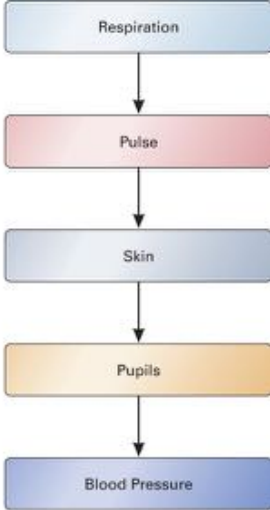


Figure 11–26 Vital signs.

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Table 11–1 Normal Respiratory Rates

Patient	Respiratory Rate*
Infant	Up to 60
Child	20–40
Adult	12–20

*Approximate rate per minute at rest.

Table 11–2 Normal Pulse Rates

Patient	Pulse Rate*
Infant	120–150
Child	80–150
Adult	60–80

*Approximate rate per minute at rest.

Figure 11–30 Assess Capillary Refill in Children Under Six Years of Age



Figure 11–30 Assess capillary refill in children under six years of age.

Figures 11-32 and 11-33

Figure 11-32 Taking blood pressure by auscultation.



Figure 11-32 Taking blood pressure by auscultation.

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Figure 11-33 Taking blood pressure by palpation.



Figure 11-33 Taking blood pressure by palpation.

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Patient History

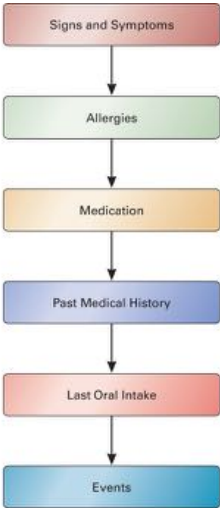


Figure 11-36 Components of the SAMPLE history.

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Signs & Symptoms



Figure 11-37a A *sign* is something EMRs can perceive, such as a deformed wrist.

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Figure 11-37b A *symptom* is something that the patient feels and describes, such as stomach pain.

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Allergies

- Medications
- Foods
- Substances in the environment

Medications

- Prescription
- OTC
- Herbal
- Recreational

Past Medical History

- Pertinent to presenting complaint

Last Oral Intake

Events

- “What were you doing when this happened?”

Ongoing Assessment

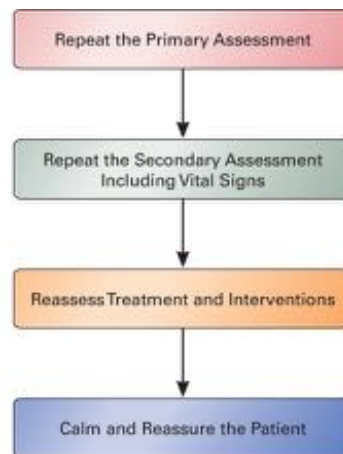


Figure 11-38 Components of the ongoing assessment.

Patient Hand-Off Report

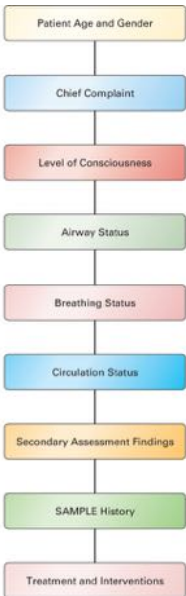


Figure 11-39 Information included in the hand-off report.

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