

# PATIENT ASSESSMENT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN - BASIC



# INTRODUCTION

- What is Patient Assessment?
- Why is Patient Assessment important?

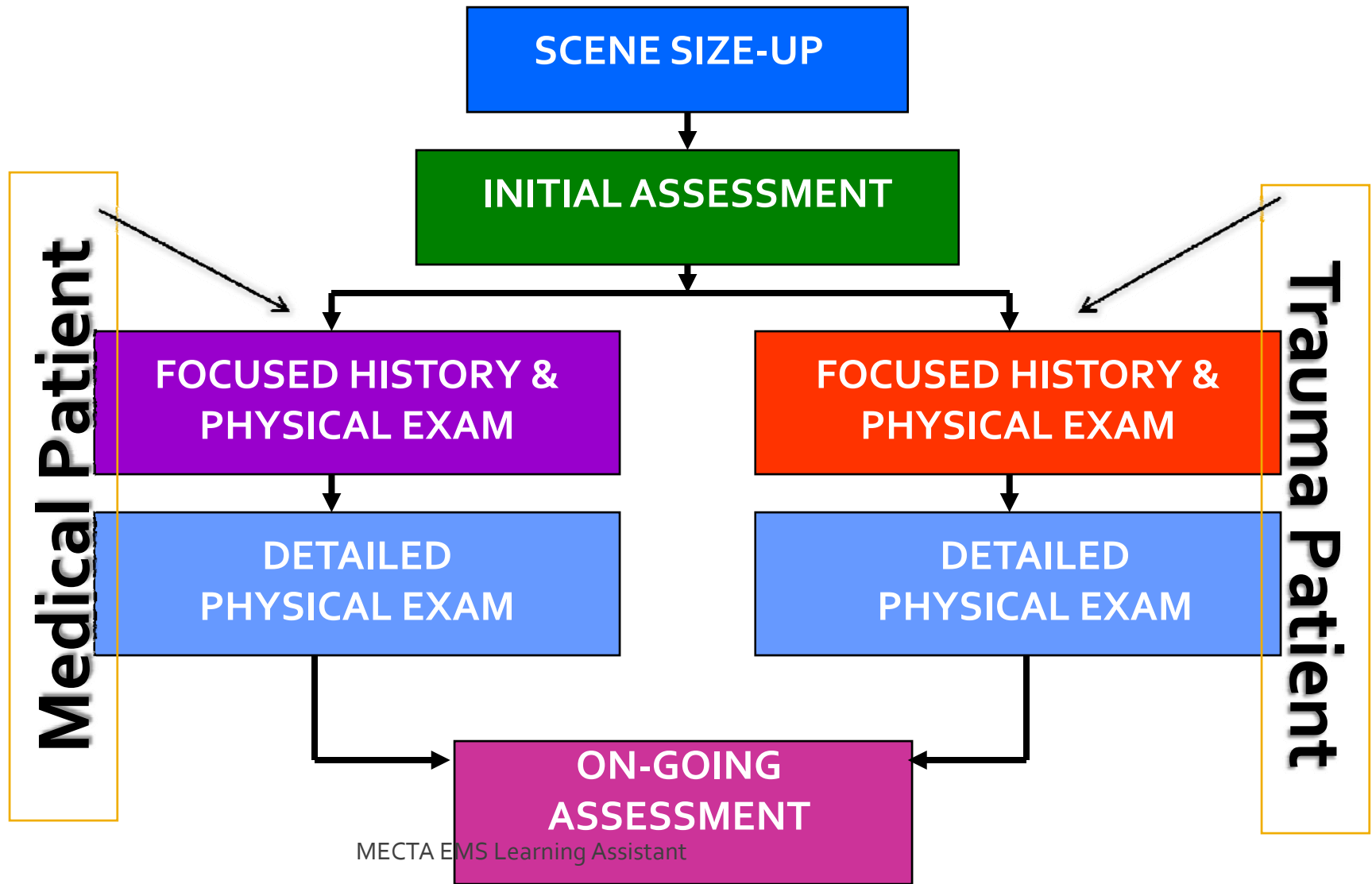
# INTRODUCTION

- What are the phases of patient assessment?
  - Review of Dispatch Information
  - Scene Survey
  - Initial Assessment
  - Focused History and Physical Exam
  - Detailed Physical Exam
  - Ongoing Assessment
  - Communication
  - Documentation

# INTRODUCTION

- Why is the order of Patient Assessment important?
- Why is it necessary to develop a method of assessment and use that method on all patients?

# -PATIENT ASSESSMENT-



# Scene Size Up

- Begin with receipt of call
  - Location
  - Incident
  - Injured/Injuries

# Scene Size Up

- Continue En Route
  - Further info from dispatcher
  - Observe
    - Smoke?
    - Fire?
    - High line wires?
    - Railroads?
    - Water?
    - Industry?
    - Other Public Safety units?

# Scene Size Up

- Upon Arrival
  - Observe
    - Overall scene
    - Location of victim(s)
    - Possible Mechanisms of Injury



# Scene Size Up

- Upon Arrival
  - Observe
    - Hazards
      - Crowds
      - HazMat
      - Electricity
      - Gas
      - Fire
      - Glass
      - Jagged metal
      - Stability of environment
      - Traffic
      - Environment

# Scene Size Up

- Ensure Safety
  - Yourself
  - Partner
  - Other rescuers/Bystanders
  - Patient

# Scene Size Up

- Call for assistance
  - Other EMS Units
  - Law Enforcement
  - Fire Department
  - HazMat
  - Negotiating Team
  - etc.

# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- Body Substance Isolation
  - Hand washing
  - Gloves & eye protection
  - Mask & gown

# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- Protective Clothing
  - Cold weather clothing
    - Dress in layers
  - Turnout gear
    - Provides head-to-toe protection
  - Gloves
    - Use proper gloves for job being performed

# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- Protective Clothing (Cont.)
  - Helmets
    - Must be worn in any fall zone
  - Boots
    - Should protect your feet, fit well, be flexible

# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- Protective Clothing (Cont.)
  - Eye & ear protection
    - Should be used on rescue operations
  - Skin protection
    - Use sun block when working outdoors

# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- Violent Situation
  - Civil disturbances
  - Domestic disputes
  - Crime scenes
  - Large gatherings



# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- Behavioral Emergencies
  - Determinants of violence
    - Past History
    - Posture
    - Vocal Activity
    - Physical activity

# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- Immunizations
  - Tetanus-Diphtheria
  - Measles vaccine
  - Rubella Vaccine
  - Mumps Vaccine
  - Flu vaccine
  - Hepatitis vaccine

# Scene Safety & Personal Protection

- *Your personal safety is of the utmost importance. You must understand the risks of each environment you enter!*

# Initial Assessment

- Purpose
  - To rapidly identify & correct life threats
  - To identify those patients who need rapid evacuation
    - Minimum Time on scene - Maximum Care En Route

# Initial Assessment

- General Impression
  - Using the facts gathered to this point, what is your first impression of the patient's condition?
- Chief Complaint

# Initial Assessment

- Mental Status (Level of Consciousness)
  - **A** - Alert
  - **V** - Verbal
  - **P** - Painful
  - **U** - Unresponsive

# Initial Assessment

- Identify Life Threats
  - **A**irway
    - Control C-spine (If trauma suspected)
    - Open-Clear-Maintain

# Initial Assessment

- **B**reathing
  - Look
  - Listen
  - Feel
  - Bare chest if respiratory distress apparent

**Initiate O<sub>2</sub> & Assure Adequate Ventilation**



# Initial Assessment

- Circulation
  - Major Bleeding
    - (Control & assess for major chest trauma)
  - Pulse (Rapid/Slow : Weak/Bounding)
    - Radial >80 systolic
    - Femoral >70 systolic
    - Carotid >60 systolic

# Initial Assessment

- **C**irculation (cont.)
  - Capillary Refill
  - Skin Color
    - Pale
    - Ashen
    - Cyanotic
    - Mottled
    - Red

# Initial Assessment

- Circulation (cont.)
  - Skin Temperature
    - Hot (warm)
    - Cool
  - Skin Condition
    - Moist
    - Dry
    - Skin Turgor

# Initial Assessment

- **E**xpose
  - Head/Neck
  - Chest
  - Abdomen
    - FOR LIFE THREATENING Illnesses or Injury (Disability)
- **High Priority Patients Require Immediate Transport**

# Initial Assessment

- **Rapid Transport Criteria**
  - Consider ALS intercept
  - If, during the Initial Assessment, you encounter a life-threatening condition that your intervention cannot alleviate, you should rapidly evacuate/transport to someone who can.
    - ALS
    - Air Flight (NE LifeFlight)

# Criteria for Rapid Transport -HIGH Priority

- Poor General Impression
- Unresponsive - no gag or cough reflex
- Responsive - unable to follow commands
- Cannot establish / maintain patent airway
- Difficulty breathing / Resp. distress

# Criteria for Rapid Transport

- Poor perfusion
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Severe pain in any part of the body
- Severe chest pain
- Inability to move any part of body

# Criteria for Rapid Transport

- Complicated childbirth
- High body temp (above 104° F)
- Signs of generalized hypothermia
- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- Poisoning or overdose of unknown nature



# Focused History & Physical Exam - Trauma

- Purpose
  - Obtain Chief Complaint
    - What happened to the patient?
  - Evaluate Chief Complaint
    - What circumstances surround this incident?
    - Is the Mechanism of Injury a high risk for injury?
  - Conduct Physical Exam
  - Obtain Baseline Vital Signs

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Trauma

- Re-evaluate Mechanism of Injury (MOI)
  - Significant MOI? Yes/No
  - Is patient unresponsive or disoriented?
    - Can they participate in examination?
  - Is the patient under the influence of drugs or alcohol?
    - Can they participate in examination?

# Patients with Significant MOI

- RAPID TRAUMA ASSESSMENT
  - Head-to-Toe Physical Exam
  - Palpation
  - Auscultation
  - Other Senses

# Patients with Significant MOI

- RAPID TRAUMA ASSESSMENT
  - **DCAP-BTLS**
    - D - Deformities
    - C - Contusions
    - A - Abrasions
    - P - Punctures/Penetrations
    - B - Burns
    - T - Tenderness
    - L - Lacerations
    - S - Swelling

# Patients with Significant MOI

- Baseline Vital Signs
  - More than one set
  - Look for “trending”

# Patients with Significant MOI

- History ***S-A-M-P-L-E***
  - **S** - Signs & Symptoms
  - **A** - Allergies
    - Medications
    - Foods
    - Environment

# Patients with Significant MOI

- **M** - Medications
  - Are you taking any?
  - When did you last take your medication?
  - What are they?
  - What are they for?
  - May I see them?
  - May we take them with us?

# Patients with Significant MOI

- **P** - Previous Medical History
  - Pertinent
  - Related to this complaint
  - Complicating factor



# Patients with Significant MOI

- **L** - Last Oral Intake
  - Food and/or Drink?
  - What?
  - When?

# Patients with Significant MOI

- **E** - Events leading up to the incident
  - What happened?
  - When?

# Patients with NO Significant MOI

- Assess Chief Complaint
- Focused Assessment
- Baseline Vitals
- **SAMPLE** History

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

- Patient Responsive? Yes/No
- **AVPU**
  - **A** - Alert
  - **V** - Verbal
  - **P** - Painful
  - **U** - Unresponsive

# Responsive Patients - Medical

- Assess Chief Complaint
- Signs & Symptoms
  - **O** - Onset
    - When & How did the symptom begin?
  - **P** - Provokes
    - What makes the symptom worse?

# Responsive Patients - Medical

- Signs & Symptoms (cont.)
  - **Q** - Quality
    - How would describe the pain?/What does the pain feel like?
    - **DO NOT** lead the patient
  - **R** - Region/Radiation
    - Where is the pain?
    - Does the pain travel anywhere else?

# Responsive Patients - Medical

- Signs & Symptoms (cont.)
  - **S** - Severity
    - How bad is the pain?
  - **T** - Time
    - How long have you had the symptom?

# Responsive Patients - Medical

- **SAMPLE** History
- Focused Medical Assessment
- Baseline Vital Signs
- Transport Decision
- Detailed Physical Exam
- Ongoing Assessment



# Unresponsive Patients - Medical

- Rapid Medical Assessment
- Baseline Vital Signs
- **SAMPLE** History
  - Family, co-workers, bystanders
- Transport
- Ongoing assessment

# Detailed Physical Exam

- More detailed Head-to-Toe examination
- Time sensitive
  - Usually performed en-route

# Detailed Physical Exam

- Required for any unresponsive patient
  - If the patient cannot communicate what is wrong, you must seek out the problem(s)
- Required for any multi-trauma patient
  - Victims of multiple trauma must be assessed for less obvious or “masked” injuries

# Detailed Physical Exam

- Required for any Patient with significant mechanism of injury
  - If the mechanism of injury *could* have caused serious injuries, the EMT must actively assess for additional injuries

# On-Going Assessment

- Purpose -
  - Determine if there are any changes in the patient's condition
  - Identify any missed injuries or conditions
  - Assess the effectiveness of treatment given and adjust if necessary

# On-Going Assessment

- Performed on both the trauma or medical patient
- Procedure
  - Repeat Initial Assessment
  - Reassess Vital Signs
  - Repeat Focused Assessment
  - Check Interventions

EMT – Interns:

Please keep in mind that this is only a guide, please refer to the Chief or Faculty with questions.

**Hope this helps!**

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# SCENE SIZE-UP



**Scene Size Up**

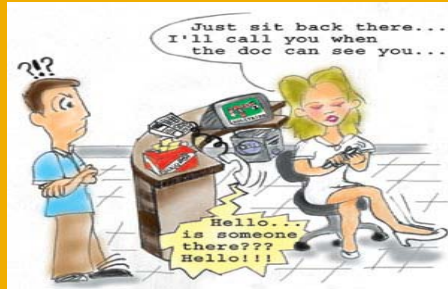


**Body Substance Isolation**

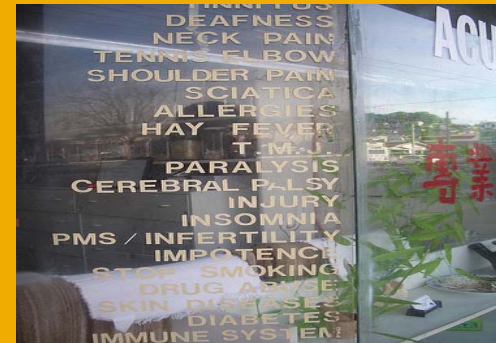




# INITIAL ASSESSMENT



**General Impression**



**Chief Complaint**

**Table II: Example of AVPU Assessment Tool**

A=Alert	Patient is alert and conscious
V=Verbal	Patient responds to verbal stimulus
P=Pain	Patient responds to painful stimulus
U=Unresponsive	Patient is unresponsive to any form of stimulus

**Mental Status**

# INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Use Jaw Thrust/Trauma



Airway

Life Threats



Open / Assess /  
Insert / Inflate  
**INJURY**  
Management



Breathing

O<sub>2</sub>



Adequate  
Ventilation

# INITIAL ASSESSMENT

5-10  
Seconds



Check Pulse



Control Major  
Bleeding



Cap Refill

Circulation



Skin Color



Temperature



Condition

# INITIAL ASSESSMENT

## Transport Decision

**Prioritize  
Patients**



**Make  
Transport  
Decision**



# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

Determine Responsiveness – Level of Consciousness

**A**

Alert

**V**

Verbal  
Stimuli

**P**

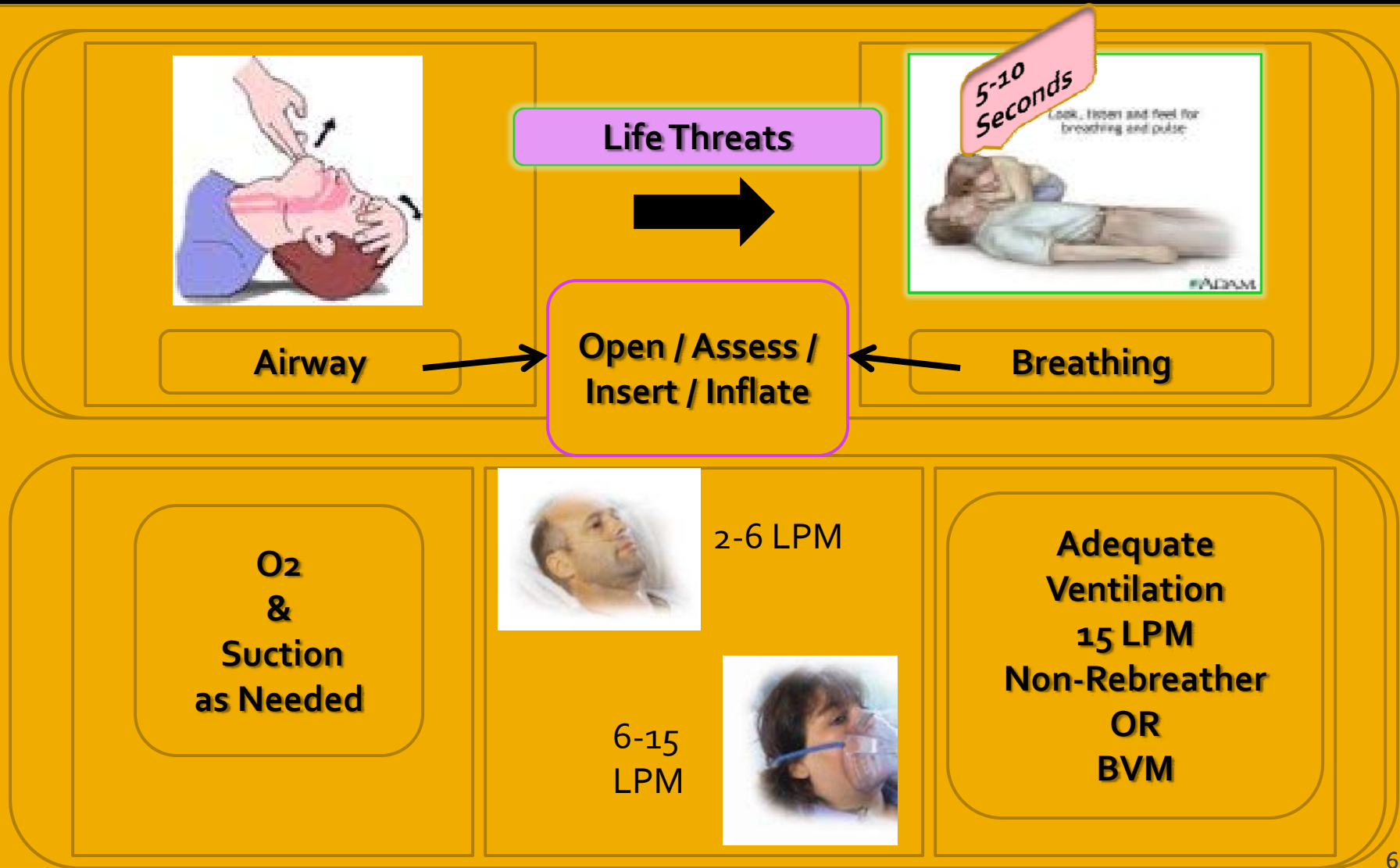
Painful  
Stimuli

Level of Consciousness

**U**

Unresponsive

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical



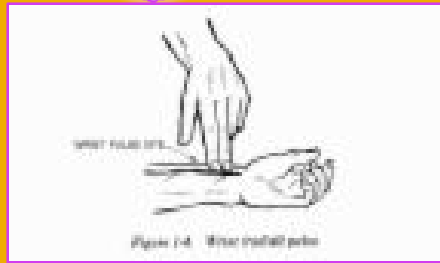
# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

U  
n  
c  
o  
n  
s  
c  
i  
o  
u  
s



**Check Pulse**

**5-10  
Seconds**



**Cap Refill**

**Circulation**



**Skin Color**



**Temperature**



**Condition**

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

## Transport Decision

**Prioritize  
Patients**



**Make  
Transport  
Decision**





# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

**S**

Onset

Signs & Symptoms

**A**

Provocation

Allergies

**M**

Quality

Medications

**P**

Radiation

Past History

**L**

Severity

Last Meal

**E**

Time

Events

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

**Inspect**

**Auscultate**

**Palpate**

**Affected Body Part  
OR  
System**

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

**Baseline VITALS**

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

ASA

NITRO

Inhaler

## Interventions

EPI - Pen

Per State-Wide Protocols

And Medical Direction

# Focused History & Physical Exam - Medical

**DETAILED**

**Re-  
Evaluate  
Transport  
Decision**

**Repeat  
Assessment**

**Repeat  
Vitals**

**Repeats  
Focused  
Assessment/  
PT.  
Complaint**

20 minutes to complete  
assessment

**Check  
Interventions**

# Focused History & Patient Exam

TRAUMA Assessment

**Focused**

**OR**

**Rapid**

# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment

**A**

Alert

**V**

Verbal  
Stimuli

**P**

Painful  
Stimuli

## Level of Consciousness

**U**

Unresponsive

# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment

Use Jaw Thrust/Trauma



Airway

Life Threats



5-10  
Seconds



Breathing

Open / Assess /  
Insert / Inflate  
**INJURY**  
Management

O<sub>2</sub>  
&  
Suction  
as Needed



Adequate  
Ventilation  
15 LPM  
Non-  
Rebreather  
OR  
BVM



# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment



**Chest Trauma**

**Manage-  
Major  
OR  
Open  
Chest Wounds**



**Occlusive Dressing**

**O<sub>2</sub>  
&  
Suction  
as Needed**



**Adequate  
Ventilation  
15 LPM  
Non-  
Rebreather  
OR  
BVM**

# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment

U  
n  
c  
o  
n  
s  
c  
i  
o  
u  
s

5-10  
Seconds



Check Pulse



Control Major  
Bleeding



Cap Refill

## Circulation



Skin Color



Temperature



Condition

# Focused History & Patient Exam

## Transport Decision

**Prioritize  
Patients**



**Make  
Transport  
Decision**



# Focused History & Patient Exam

TRAUMA Assessment

**Focused**

**OR**

**Rapid**

# Focused History & Patient Exam

RAPID - TRAUMA Assessment

DETAILED

Inspect & Palpate

Posterior  
Thorax

Posterior  
Lumbar

? Breath  
Sounds

**Baseline VITALS**

**Pulse**

**Resp.**

**BP**

# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment

**S**

Signs &  
Symptoms

**A**

Allergies

**M**

Medications

Assess History / Present Illness

**P**

Past History

**L**

Last Meal

**E**

Events

# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment

**D**  
**C**  
**A**  
**P**  
**B**  
**T**  
**L**  
**S**

**Head**

Scalp/Ears

**Head**

Eyes

**Head**

Face/Mouth/  
Nose

**HEAD to Toe Exam – INSPECT & PALPATE**

**Neck**

Inspect / Palpate

**Neck**

Assess for JVD

**Neck**

Tracheal  
Deviations

# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment

**D**  
**C**  
**A**  
**P**  
**B**  
**T**  
**L**  
**S**

**Chest**

Inspect

**Chest**

Palpate

**Chest**

Auscultate

**HEAD to Toe Exam – INSPECT & PALPATE**

**ABD/  
Pelvis**

**ABDOMEN**  
Inspect / Palpate

**ABD/  
Pelvis**

**PELVIS**  
Inspect / Palpate

**ABD/  
Pelvis**

Genitalia



# Focused History & Patient Exam

## TRAUMA Assessment

**D**  
**C**  
**A**  
**P**  
  
**B**  
**T**  
**L**  
**S**

**Right  
Leg**

Inspect  
CSM's

**Left  
Leg**

Inspect  
CSM's

Inspect &  
Palpate  
Circulation  
Sensory  
Motion

**HEAD to Toe Exam – INSPECT & PALPATE**

**Right  
Arm**

**ABDOMEN**  
Inspect / Palpate

**Left  
Arm**

**PELVIS**  
Inspect / Palpate

Inspect &  
Palpate  
Circulation  
Sensory  
Motion

# Focused History & Patient Exam

TRAUMA Assessment

**Manage Secondary Injuries / Wounds**

**Re-Assess**  
**Pulse**  
**Respiration**  
**Blood Pressure**