Chapter 12: Patient Assessment in the Field

Patient assessment means conducting a ________________-oriented evaluation of your patient and establishing priorities of care based on existing and potential threats to human life.

Components of Patient Assessment
- Scene size-up
- __________________________ assessment
- Secondary assessment
- __________________________ physical exam

Scene Size-up
- Body substance isolation
- Scene __________________________
- Location of all patients
- Mechanism of __________________________
- Nature of the illness

Always stop to __________________________ the scene before going in.

Body Substance Isolation
- The best defense against blood-borne, __________________________-borne, and air-borne agents is to take appropriate body substance isolation precautions.
- Always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (__________) to prevent exposure to contagious diseases.
- Careful, methodical hand __________________________ helps reduce exposure to contagious disease.
- Place all contaminated items in the appropriate __________________________ bag.
- With a suspected tuberculosis patient, you may place a surgical-type mask on the patient while you wear a __________________________ -approved respirator. Monitor the patient’s airway and breathing carefully.

Scene Safety
- Scene safety simply means doing everything possible to ensure a safe environment for yourself, your crew, other responding personnel, your patient, and any __________________________—in that order.

Look for potential __________________________ during scene size-up.
Even the most peaceful-looking scene can pose potential dangers.
Wait for the ______________________________ before entering a potentially hazardous scene.

Never enter a ______________________________ rescue situation without proper training and equipment.

Rescue Operations Equipment

- Eye Protection
- Hearing Protection
- ______________________________ Work Gloves
- Steel-Toed Boots
- Insulated Coveralls
- ______________________________ Gear

Full protective gear, including eye protection, helmet, turnout gear, and gloves is sometimes necessary

Self-contained breathing apparatus (__________)

Hazardous materials responses require special training and ______________________________.

If you do not have the proper gear AND the proper ______________________________, do not get involved in the rescue. Call someone who has the gear and training

_______________________________ lines help to keep bystanders out of hazardous scenes.

Patient Safety Equipment for Rescue Operations

- Hard hat or helmet
- ______________________________ protection
- Hearing and respiratory protection
- Protective ______________________________
- Protective shielding
  - From power tools
  - From ______________________________

Protect the patient from ______________________________ at the scene.

Location of All Patients

- Scene size-up also includes a search of the area to locate all of the patients.
- Call for ______________________________ early in operations

Follow local ______________________________ when you respond to a mass-
casualty incident.

26 Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)
   ● When the situation overwhelms the __________________________ of a
     local EMS service

27 The incident __________________________ directs the response and
   coordinates resources at a multiple-casualty incident.

28 The __________________________ person examines and prioritizes patients.

29 Mechanism of Injury (MOI)
   ● Mechanism of injury is the combined strength,
     __________________________, and nature of forces that injured your
     patient.
   ● Simply put it is what caused the injury?
   ● Fall, MVC, shotgun wound, etc.
   ● Can give many clues to the types and severity of the
     __________________________
   ● Always maintain a high index of __________________________

30 With trauma, try to determine the mechanism of injury during scene
   __________________________

31 Nature of Illness
   To determine the nature of illness:
   ● Use __________________________, family members, or the patient.
   ● Use the __________________________ to give clues to the patient’s
     condition.
   ● Remember that sometimes the patient’s illness may be very
     __________________________ from the chief complaint.

32 The Primary Assessment

33 The primary assessment is designed to identify and immediately
   __________________________ life-threatening patient conditions of the
   Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (ABCs).

34 Primary Assessment Steps
   ● Form a __________________________ impression.
   ● Stabilize the __________________________ spine.
   ● Assess the baseline __________________________ status.
   ● Assess the airway.
   ● Assess breathing.
   ● Assess circulation.
   ● Determine __________________________.

35 The primary assessment should take less than one minute, unless you have to intervene with
The General Impression

- The general impression is the initial, intuitive evaluation of the patient to determine the clinical status and priority for transport.
- Consider age, gender, and appearance
- ID as medical or
- If a patient looks he/she probably is

Stabilize the head and neck on first patient contact if trauma or unsure.

Place a folded towel under your young patient’s to keep the airway aligned.

Mental Status

- A patient’s mental status is a very important sign
  - Alert
  - Painful stimuli
  - Try to determine what the mental status on each patient

Airway Assessment

- If the patient is responsive and can speak clearly, assume the airway is.
- If the patient is unconscious, the airway may be.

Airway Management Techniques

- Your unconscious patient’s tongue may fall and close the airway.
- Use the to open your patient's airway if you suspect a cervical spine injury.
- The /chin lift maneuver in an adult.
- The head-tilt/chin lift maneuver in an infant. Do not overextend the head and neck.
- Fluids from your patient’s airway as needed.
- Immediately use a mask to ventilate patients who are not moving air.
- Use an oropharyngeal airway for unconscious patients
49 The nasopharyngeal airway rests between the tongue and the pharyngeal wall.

50 Endotracheal

51 Pharyngotraheal Lumen Airway

52 Esophageal Tracheal

53 Needle

54 Assessing Breathing

55 Signs of Inadequate Breathing

1. Altered mental status
   - Shortness of breath
   - Asymmetric chest wall movement

2. Accessory muscle use
   - Audible sounds
   - Abnormal rate or Nasal flaring

56 Chest Injuries Causing Inadequate Breathing

- Sucking Chest Wound
  - Chest
- Pneumothorax/Hemothorax
  - Pneumothorax

57 Circulation Assessment

- The circulation assessment consists of evaluating the pulse and skin and controlling .
  - Evaluate Pulse for:
    - Rate
    - Quality

58 To assess an adult’s circulation, feel for a pulse.

59 If you cannot feel a radial pulse, palpate for a pulse.

60 To assess an infant’s circulation, palpate the pulse.
Control major ________________________________.

Assess the ________________________________.

Capillary refill time provides important information about the ________________________________ status of infants and young children.

Elevate your patient’s feet if you suspect circulatory ________________________________ without trauma.

Apply a pneumatic ________________________________ garment according to your local protocol.

En route to the hospital, establish an ____________.

Priority Determination

 Once the initial assessment is completed, determine the patient’s ________________________________.

Top Priority Patients

1. Poor general ________________________________
   - Unresponsive or altered LOC
   - Conscious but cannot follow commands
   - Difficulty or abnormal breathing
   - ________________________________

2. Airway Compromise
   - Complicated childbirth
   - Chest pain and BP below ____________ systolic
   - Uncontrolled bleeding
   - Severe pain
   - Serious or ________________________________ injuries

transport for a high priority patient and continue assessment and care en route.

The Secondary Assessment

Types of Patients

 - ________________________________ patient with significant mechanism of injury.
 - Trauma patient with isolated injury.
 - Responsive medical patient.
 - Unresponsive ________________________________ patient.

The Major Trauma Patient

The major trauma patient is one who:

 - Sustained significant mechanism of ________________________________.
 - Exhibits ________________________________ mental status from the incident.
Predictors of Serious Internal Injury

1. Death in same passenger compartment
2. Fall from higher than 20 feet
3. Penetration of the chest, or abdomen of vehicle

High-speed motor vehicle collision

Vehicle-pedestrian collision

Motorcycle crash

Mechanism of Injury Considerations for Infants and Children

Fall from higher than ________ feet

Medium-speed collision with resulting severe vehicle deformity

Evaluate the trauma to determine the mechanism of injury.

A __________________________ steering wheel indicates potentially serious injuries.

Rapid Secondary Assessment

- a detailed physical exam
- Fast, systematic assessment life-threatening injuries
- Should be done on patients with significant ________
- Should be done in just a few seconds, unless treatment is required
- Use ________________

DCAP-BTLS

1. D

Contusion

Abrasion

2. P

Burns

Lacerations

S

Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Head and Neck

The first step in the rapid secondary assessment is to ________________ the head.

Periodically examine your gloves for ____________________________.

Inspect and palpate the ____________________________ neck.
Pay particular attention to tracheal deviation and subcutaneous emphysema.

83 □ Inspect and palpate the ____________________________ neck. Note any tenderness, irregularity, or edema.

84 □ Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Chest
85 □ Palpate the ____________________________.
86 □ Stabilize the ____________________________ chest.
87 □ Seal any sucking chest wound with tape on ____________________________ sides.
88 □ Perform needle ____________________________ to relieve tension pneumothorax if authorized.

89 □ Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Abdomen
90 □ All 4 quadrants should be palpated ____________________________ at a time
91 □ Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Pelvis and Extremities
92 □ Medic alert ____________________________ can give important information about the patient’s condition and medical history.
93 □ Assess the integrity of the pelvis by gently pressing ____________________________ on the pelvic ring.
94 □ Compress pelvis ____________________________.
95 □ Palpate the ____________________________.
96 □ Palpate the ____________________________.
97 □ Palpate the ____________________________ pedis pulse to evaluate distal circulation in the leg.
98 □ Assess distal sensation and ____________________________ function.
99 □ Inspect and palpate the ____________________________ body.

100 □ VITAL SIGNS
101 □ Vital Signs
   • Pulse rate and ____________________________
   • Blood pressure
   • Respiration rate and quality
   • ____________________________ condition

102 □ SAMPLE History
   • S ____________________________
   • A ____________________________
The Isolated-Injury Trauma Patient
● No significant mechanism of injury
● Shows no signs of ______ medical history preceding the incident
● Shows no signs of ______ oral intake
● Does not require a comprehensive rapid trauma assessment
● Does not require a comprehensive ______ exam
● Concentrate on area of ______

The Responsive Medical Patient
Assessing the responsive patient with a medical emergency is entirely different from assessing the trauma patient in ______ ways…..

Differences
● The ______ takes precedence over the physical exam.
● The ______ exam is aimed at identifying medical complications rather than signs of injury.

Begin ______ while you assess your responsive medical patient.

The History
● Chief complaint
● History of the ______ illness
● Past ______
● Current ______ status

Chief Complaint
● The pain, discomfort, or ______ causing patient to call for help
● “What seems to be the ______?”

The History of the Present Illness (OPQRST-ASPN)
1
● O ______
● P Provocation
   or
   ______
● Quality
● Region/Radiation
● Severity
● T ______
2
● Associated Symptoms
● P ______ Negatives
111 Past Medical History
- ______________________ state of health
- Childhood and adult diseases
- Psychiatric illnesses
- Accidents and injuries
- ______________________ and hospitalizations

112 Current Health Status
- Current medications
- ______________________
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- ______________________
- Screening exams
- Immunizations
- Sleep patterns
- Exercise and leisure activities
- Environmental hazards
- Use of ______________________ measures
- Family history
- Social history

113 Focused Physical Exam (1 of 5)
- Lip and oral mucosa color
- ______________________ and color
- Swelling, hives, redness
- ______________________

114 Focused Physical Exam (2 of 5)
- Accessory muscle use and retractions
- Carotid arteries
- JVD
- ______________________ position

115 Focused Physical Exam (3 of 5)
- Respiratory rate and pattern
- Symmetry of chest wall
- ______________________
- Lung sounds
- Percussion

116 Focused Physical Exam (4 of 5)
● Signs of arterial insufficiency
● Peripheral pulses
● ___________________________ sounds

117 Focused Physical Exam (5 of 5)

—

● Pulses, sensation, movement
● ___________________________ /pitting edema

—

● Abdominal muscle use
● Distension/Tenderness
●

● Pulsation of descending aorta
● Palpate the quadrants

118 Check for ___________________________ edema.

119 Baseline Vital Signs
● Blood pressure
● ___________________________

● Respiration
● Temperature
●

● Orthostatic ___________________________ (if possibly hypovolemic)
  commonly called “Tilt Test”

120 Additional Assessment Techniques
● Pulse ___________________________
● Cardiac monitoring
● Blood ___________________________ determination
●

121 Assessing the Unresponsive Medical Patient
● ___________________________ assessment
● Rapid ___________________________ assessment
● Brief history
● Expedite transport, performing ongoing assessment every ____________ minutes en route

122 Detailed Physical Exam: The Head and Neck

123 Inspect and palpate the ___________________________ from front to back.

124 Inspect and palpate the ___________________________ bones.

125 Inspect the mastoid process for ___________________________ sign.

126 Check the ___________________________ for reaction to light.

127 Check for ___________________________ movement.
Inspect the ear canal for ____________________________.

Examine the ____________________________ mucosa for drainage.

Examine the ____________________________ mucosa for pallor.

Palpate the ____________________________ for midline position.

Detailed Physical Exam: The Torso

Palpate the ____________________________.

Auscultate the ____________________________.

Palpate the ____________________________.

Evaluate the ____________________________.

Evaluate the Extremities

- Peripheral pulses
- ____________________________
- Capillary Refill
- ____________________________
- Sensation

Areas of Nervous System Exam

- Mental status and speech
- ____________________________ system
- ____________________________ system

Reassessment

- Detects ____________________________
- Determines changes
- Assesses intervention’s ____________________________

Reassessment

1. ____________________________ status

- Airway patency
- Breathing rate and quality
- Pulse rate and quality
- Skin condition

2. ____________________________ priorities

- Vital signs
- Focused assessment
- Effects of ____________________________
- Management plans

Re-evaluate the ____________________________.

Take all the ____________________________ signs again.

Perform your ____________________________ assessment again.
Evaluate your ___________________________ effects.