

History Taking Protocol

Purpose: To define the history-taking requirements for both medical and trauma patients, allowing a complete and thorough review of the current event, as well as any past medical history or medication history that may be relevant to the current event.

1. Medical:

- a. Chief complaint: (questioning to include the items below when appropriate:)
 - i. Onset.
 - ii. Quality.
 - iii. Quantity.
 - iv. Duration.
 - v. Relief/aggravation.
 - vi. Associated symptoms.
 - vii. With pain: use PQRRRST, including location and radiation.
 1. Obtain a level of pain indication, i.e. rating pain on 1:10 scale, to allow consistent pain evaluation among varying caregivers.
- b. Associated complaints: questioning the same as for chief complaint.
- c. Relevant past medical history.
- d. Allergies.
- e. Medications and drugs: Chronic and "on-board", as well as compliance with physician instructions.
- f. Survey of surroundings for evidence pertaining to drug abuse, mental functioning, family problems.

2. Trauma:

- a. Identify the Mechanism of Injury (cause, implements, trajectory, force, vehicular speeds, condition of vehicles, etc.)
- b. Patient complaints: History as above for medical complaints.
- c. Relevant past medical history.
- d. Allergies.
- e. Medications and drugs: Chronic and "on-board".

3. Special Notes:

- a. Do not let gathering of information distract you from management of life-threatening problems.
- b. Appropriate questioning can provide valuable information while establishing your authority, competence and rapport with patient.
- c. History is commonly obtained while performing secondary survey. Partner should be used for gathering information from patient or bystanders.
- d. USE BYSTANDERS to confirm information obtained from patient and to provide facts when patient cannot. History from the scene is invaluable: you are the only one who can obtain this.
- e. Include and question the use of over-the-counter (OTC) medications (including aspirin) and birth control pills.
- f. Consider any medical cause for trauma, particularly in single person accidents (ie. MVA due to having an acute stroke, diabetic problem or MI).
- g. Utilize local rescue unit to maximize efficiency in gathering information and providing patient care. Look for medical alert tags.
- h. Use SAMPLE history format for information gathering, based on the acronym below, or other industry-standard history-taking tool.

History Taking Protocol

"SAMPLE History"

Symptoms & Signs

Allergies

Medication

Past Medical History

Last Meal

Events Preceding Incident

All history is to be accurately and completely documented on Patient Care Report per the Documentation Procedure (Part 1, Section 2).

AUTHENTICATION AND APPROVAL

Marquette County EMS Medical Director

Date

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