

The Secondary Assessment Of A Medical Patient Emt



National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians®
Emergency Medical Technician Psychomotor Examination

PATIENT ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT – MEDICAL

Candidate: _____ Examiner: _____
 Date: _____ Signature: _____
 Scenario # _____

Actual Time Started: _____

	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Takes or verbalizes appropriate body substance isolation precautions	1	
SCENE SIZE-UP		
Determines the scene/situation is safe	1	
Determines the mechanism of injury/nature of illness	1	
Determines the number of patients	1	
Requests additional EMS assistance if necessary	1	
Considers stabilization of the spine	1	
PRIMARY SURVEY/RESUSCITATION		
Verbalizes the general impression of the patient	1	
Determines responsiveness/level of consciousness (AVPU)	1	
Determines chief complaint/apparent life-threats	1	
Assesses airway and breathing		
-Assessment (1 point) -Assures adequate ventilation (1 point) -Initiates appropriate oxygen therapy (1 point)	3	
Assesses circulation		
-Assesses/controls major bleeding (1 point) -Checks pulse (1 point)	3	
-Assesses skin [either skin color, temperature or condition] (1 point)		
Identifies patient priority and makes treatment/transport decision	1	
HISTORY TAKING		
History of the present illness		
-Onset (1 point) -Quality (1 point) -Severity (1 point)	8	
-Provocation (1 point) -Radiation (1 point) -Time (1 point)		
-Clarifying questions of associated signs and symptoms related to OPQRST (2 points)		
Past medical history		
-Allergies (1 point) -Past pertinent history (1 point) -Events leading to present illness (1 point)	5	
-Medications (1 point) -Last oral intake (1 point)		
SECONDARY ASSESSMENT		
Assesses affected body part/system		
-Cardiovascular -Neurological -Integumentary -Reproductive	5	
-Pulmonary -Musculoskeletal -GI/GU -Psychological/Social		
VITAL SIGNS		
-Blood pressure (1 point) -Pulse (1 point) -Respiratory rate and quality (1 point each)	4	
States field impression of patient	1	
Interventions [verbalizes proper interventions/treatment]	1	
REASSESSMENT		
Demonstrates how and when to reassess the patient to determine changes in condition	1	
Provides accurate verbal report to arriving EMS unit	1	
Actual Time Ended: _____	TOTAL	42

CRITICAL CRITERIA

____ Failure to initiate or call for transport of the patient within 15 minute time limit

____ Failure to take or verbalize appropriate body substance isolation precautions

____ Failure to determine scene safety before approaching patient

____ Failure to voice and ultimately provide appropriate oxygen therapy

____ Failure to assess/provide adequate ventilation

____ Failure to find or appropriately manage problems associated with airway, breathing, hemorrhage or shock

____ Failure to differentiate patient's need for immediate transportation versus continued assessment or treatment at the scene

____ Performs secondary examination before assessing and treating threats to airway, breathing and circulation

____ Orders a dangerous or inappropriate intervention

____ Failure to provide accurate report to arriving EMS unit

____ Failure to manage the patient as a competent EMT

____ Exhibits unacceptable affect with patient or other personnel

____ Uses or orders a dangerous or inappropriate intervention

You must factually document your rationale for checking any of the above critical items on the reverse side of this form.

© 2011 by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Inc., Columbus, OH e202/10-12
 All materials subject to this copyright may be photocopied for the non-commercial purpose of educational or scientific advancement.

The secondary assessment of a medical patient EMT is a crucial component in the emergency medical services (EMS) system. This process involves a thorough evaluation of a patient's condition after initial life-threatening issues have been addressed. The secondary assessment is vital for providing detailed information that assists in diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing patient management. This article delves into the steps involved in the secondary assessment, the importance of obtaining a medical history, and the various techniques and tools used by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) during this critical phase.

Understanding the Secondary Assessment

The secondary assessment is a systematic approach used by EMTs to gather comprehensive information about a patient's medical condition. It is typically conducted after the primary assessment, which focuses on identifying and managing immediate life threats. The secondary assessment aims to uncover non-life-threatening conditions that may require attention.

Objectives of the Secondary Assessment

1. Identify underlying medical conditions: EMTs seek to uncover any existing medical conditions that may have contributed to the patient's current state.
2. Gather detailed patient history: Obtaining a thorough medical history is essential for understanding the context of the patient's symptoms.
3. Perform a physical examination: A focused physical exam helps identify any additional injuries or medical issues.
4. Establish a baseline for monitoring: The secondary assessment provides a baseline for tracking changes in the patient's condition during transport.

Steps in Conducting a Secondary Assessment

The secondary assessment consists of several key steps, each designed to gather specific information and ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the patient.

1. Scene Safety and Initial Observations

Before conducting the secondary assessment, EMTs must ensure the scene is safe. Initial observations should include:

- Assessing the environment: Look for hazards that could affect the safety of the EMTs, the patient, or bystanders.
- Noting the mechanism of injury (MOI) or nature of illness (NOI): Understanding how the patient sustained their condition can provide clues to their medical status.

2. Patient History

Gathering a detailed patient history is essential for understanding the patient's current condition. EMTs should use the acronym SAMPLE to remember the key components:

- S: Signs and symptoms
- A: Allergies
- M: Medications
- P: Past medical history
- L: Last oral intake
- E: Events leading to the present illness or injury

Additionally, the EMT should ask questions that pertain to:

- Duration and severity of symptoms
- Any previous similar episodes
- Recent travel history
- Social history (e.g., tobacco, alcohol, drug use)

3. Physical Examination

The physical examination is a systematic process that helps identify any additional injuries or medical conditions. It typically involves:

- Inspection: Visually examining the patient for any signs of trauma, distress, or abnormalities.
- Palpation: Using hands to feel for any abnormalities, tenderness, or swelling.
- Auscultation: Listening to body sounds, particularly lung sounds and heart sounds, using a stethoscope.
- Vital Signs Assessment: Measuring and recording vital signs, which include:
 - Pulse rate and quality
 - Respiratory rate and quality
 - Blood pressure
 - Temperature
 - Oxygen saturation (SpO₂) levels

4. Focused Assessment

The focused assessment involves evaluating the patient's specific complaints in greater detail. EMTs should conduct a head-to-toe examination, paying close attention to areas related to the patient's chief complaint. For example:

- Chest pain: Assess for signs of respiratory distress, any abnormalities in lung sounds, or heart rhythm irregularities.
- Abdominal pain: Check for tenderness, rigidity, or distension in the abdominal area.
- Neurological symptoms: Conduct a neurological assessment using the AVPU scale (Alert, Verbal response, Painful response, Unresponsive) to evaluate the patient's level of consciousness.

Documentation and Communication

Accurate documentation of the secondary assessment findings is essential for continuity of care and future medical interventions. EMTs should ensure that all information is clearly recorded, including:

- Patient demographics (age, sex, etc.)
- Detailed medical history and physical findings
- Vital signs and any changes noted during the assessment
- Interventions performed and the patient's response to treatment

Effective communication with other healthcare providers is also crucial. EMTs must relay the information gathered during the secondary assessment to hospital staff, ensuring a seamless transition of care.

Importance of Teamwork and Collaboration

The secondary assessment is often conducted in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. EMTs must work as part of a team, which may include paramedics, other EMTs, and emergency department staff. Key aspects of teamwork include:

- Clear communication: Sharing information accurately and promptly ensures that all team members are aware of the patient's condition.
- Role clarity: Each team member should understand their responsibilities during the assessment and transport process.
- Support and assistance: Team members should support each other, especially in high-stress situations.

Challenges and Considerations

Conducting a thorough secondary assessment can be challenging due to various factors, including:

- Time constraints: EMTs often operate under tight time limits, especially in critical situations. Prioritizing assessments based on the patient's condition is essential.
- Patient cooperation: Some patients may be unresponsive or unable to communicate effectively, making it difficult to gather history and conduct a thorough assessment.
- Environmental factors: Noise, crowds, and other distractions can impede the assessment process.

To address these challenges, EMTs should:

- Remain focused and organized during the assessment process.

- Utilize available resources, such as family members, to gather information when the patient is uncooperative.
- Adapt their approach based on the patient's condition and the environment.

Conclusion

The secondary assessment of a medical patient EMT is a vital process that provides a comprehensive understanding of a patient's condition beyond the immediate life-threatening issues addressed in the primary assessment. By systematically gathering medical history, conducting a thorough physical examination, and documenting findings, EMTs can ensure that patients receive appropriate care and interventions. The importance of clear communication and teamwork cannot be overstated, as these elements greatly enhance the quality of care provided to patients in emergency situations. Through continuous training and practice, EMTs can refine their skills in the secondary assessment, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes and more effective emergency medical services.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary purpose of the secondary assessment in EMT practice?

The primary purpose of the secondary assessment is to identify any additional injuries or medical conditions that may not be immediately life-threatening but still require attention, ensuring comprehensive patient care.

What are the key components of a secondary assessment for a medical patient?

The key components include a focused history taking, physical examination, vital signs assessment, and any necessary diagnostic tests to gather more information about the patient's condition.

How do you conduct a focused history during a secondary assessment?

A focused history involves asking the patient about their current symptoms, medical history, medications, allergies, and any recent changes in their health, using the SAMPLE acronym (Signs/Symptoms, Allergies, Medications, Past medical history, Last oral intake, Events leading up to the incident).

What vital signs should be assessed during the

secondary assessment?

Vital signs to assess include heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and temperature, as they provide critical information about the patient's overall health and stability.

Why is the physical examination important in a secondary assessment?

The physical examination is important as it helps to identify any physical abnormalities, signs of trauma, or other medical conditions that may not be apparent from the patient's history alone.

What is the significance of reassessing vital signs during the secondary assessment?

Reassessing vital signs is significant as it allows EMTs to monitor any changes in the patient's condition, helps determine the effectiveness of interventions, and guides further treatment decisions.

What are common tools used during the secondary assessment of a medical patient?

Common tools include a stethoscope for auscultation, a sphygmomanometer for blood pressure measurement, a pulse oximeter for oxygen saturation, and a glucometer for blood glucose levels.

How should the EMT document findings from the secondary assessment?

The EMT should document findings clearly and concisely in the patient care report, including the patient's history, vital signs, physical exam results, any treatments provided, and the patient's response to those treatments.

What role does communication play during the secondary assessment?

Communication is crucial during the secondary assessment as it ensures that the EMT gathers accurate information from the patient, collaborates effectively with other healthcare providers, and keeps the patient informed about the assessment process.

Find other PDF article:

<https://soc.up.edu.ph/48-shade/pdf?trackid=ETE09-9817&title=preguntas-para-el-examen-de-manejo-en-ny.pdf>

[The Secondary Assessment Of A Medical Patient Emt](#)

[secondsecondary](#) -

2.secondary
 ...

[secondary educationtertiary education](#) ...

[secondary educationtertiary educationsecondary educationtertiary education](#)1 ...

[high schoolsecondary school](#) ...

[secondary school](#) 1218 secondarycollege secondary school
[high school](#) (...

[SCIrunning title](#) ...

May 30, 2022 · The title exceeds 70 characters with spaces; the author is suggested to give an abbreviated runnin...

[Secondary School ,High School , Middle School](#) ...

[Secondary School ,High School ,Middle School](#) 1Secondary School
2High School 3Middle School ...

[Secondary_Data](#) ...

Nov 6, 2014 · [Secondary Data](#) ...

[secondary data](#) ...

Nov 17, 2023 · [secondary dataprimary datasecondary dataPrimary data](#)
separate the primary data and indices to that data. ...

[Windows“Secondary Logon”](#) ...

[Windows“Secondary Logon”](#) win+R services.msc ...

[secondary logon](#) -

Sep 18, 2016 · [secondary logon](#)secondary logon

[cisco secondary ip](#) ...

Jul 19, 2011 · [ip address IP secondary](#) [ip
redirect] Cisco ...

[secondsecondary](#) -

2.secondary
 ...

[secondary educationtertiary education](#) ...

[secondary educationtertiary educationsecondary educationtertiary education](#)1 ...

high schoool secondary school 12 18 secondary college secondary school high school (...

secondary school 12 18 secondary college secondary school high school (...

SCI running title ...

May 30, 2022 · The title exceeds 70 characters with spaces; the author is suggested to give an abbreviated runnin...

Secondary School ,High School , Middle School

Secondary School ,High School ,Middle School 1 Secondary School 2 High School 3 Middle School ...

Secondary_Data

Nov 6, 2014 · Secondary Data ...

secondary data

Nov 17, 2023 · secondary data primary data secondary data Primary data separate the primary data and indices to that data. ...

Windows "Secondary Logon"

Windows "Secondary Logon" win+R services.msc ...

secondary logon

Sep 18, 2016 · secondary logon secondary logon

cisco secondary ip

Jul 19, 2011 · ip address IP secondary [ip redirect] Cisco ...

Master the secondary assessment of a medical patient as an EMT. Explore essential techniques and tips to enhance your skills. Learn more now!

[Back to Home](#)