

Section: Division of Nursing

\*\*\*\*\*

Index: 7010.086c

\* GUIDELINE \*

Page: 1 of 8

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Issue Date: April 17, 2002

Revised Date: March 2012

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: L. Skeahan, RN, MSN

Revised by: Michelle Bartlette, RN

ED

(Scope)

**TITLE: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TRIAGE AND NURSES NOTES GUIDELINE (For Downtime Use Only)**

**PURPOSE:** To provide concise, pertinent and accurate information on patients seen in the Emergency Department (ED). This is only to be used in the event of an EMR downtime, otherwise Triage documentation will take place in Firstnet.

**NATURE OF**

**FORM:** Permanent

<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Emergency Department Triage: (Page 1)	Registered Nurse
	Initial Observation: (Page 2 & 3)	Registered nurse
	Nursing Notes: (Page 3-4)	Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse

**CONTENT: PROCEDURE:**

**Emergency Dept.  
Triage & Nurses  
Note Form**

- \* Stamp date and time of patient's arrival
- 1. Check appropriate triage status according to 5-level triage as per the policy and assessment
- 2. Check mode of arrival, write in name of squad and name of ALS who accompanied patient if applicable.
- 3. Check with whom patient arrived and write in name.
- 4. Enter patient's first and last name
- 5. Check appropriate box for sex: male or female
- 6. Enter age
- 7. Write in date of last tetanus shot; if patient not sure write **unknown**.
- 8. Check appropriate boxes for treatment in progress on arrival, write in IV solution, size of catheter and location, O<sub>2</sub> and any other treatment given.
- 9. Check if patient is the informant/write in name if other than patient.
- 10. Document patient's chief complaint and any pertinent subjective information.
- 11. Document objective findings.
- 12. Document time of onset of symptoms.
- 13. Document mechanism of injury, if illness check NA
- 14. Weigh patient in kilograms and measure patient in centimeters and document
- 15. Ask patient for date of last menstrual period
- 16. Document if patient is pregnant or breastfeeding
- 17. If child  $\leq$  2 years is presenting with a head injury or history of hydrocephelas, enter head circumference, otherwise check N/A

18. Enter temperature and check appropriate box for means of obtaining
19. Enter B/P and check box for right or left extremity
20. Enter pulse
21. Enter respirations
22. Measure and document patients pulse ox
23. Write in room air (RA) or amount of O<sub>2</sub> used
24. Check interpretation needed: **yes or no**
25. Document, initial pain level, circle pain scale used, write in immediate intervention, check box when pain management reviewed with patient or significant other.
26. Document if vaccines are current for pediatric patients
27. Enter any allergies and type of reaction or check box **patient denies allergies.**
28. Check appropriate box for disposition of medication (if brought to HRMC)
29. If patient is taking medication at home, complete Med Reconciliation form as per policy.
30. Document past medical/surgical history or any hospitalizations or check **none/denies**
31. Document communication barriers/deficits. Barriers to learning by checking yes/no box. If patient denies barriers check yes in denies. No further documentation needed.
32. Document by checking yes/no box for alcohol use and write in amount per day.
33. Document by checking yes/no for illicit (street) drug use and write in explanation if yes.
34. Document by checking yes/no for caffeine intake and document amount daily.
35. Document by checking yes/no for tobacco use by patient or family member. Circle patient or family member. Check off type of tobacco and write in amount per day, length of time smoked and time of last smoke.
36. Document name of patient's primary physician. Check yes/no if patient contacted physician.
37. Document nursing action in appropriate space. If x-ray, write in specific area and laterality.
38. Signature of triage RN
39. Circle room number patient is brought to
40. Document time patient brought to room.
41. Signature of person bringing patient into room
42. Signature of nurse reviewing page 1 (Admission LPN/RN)
43. Document date and time of review
44. If patient is admitted or sent to OR, complete document if patient has had recent exposure to communicable disease. If **yes** explain.
45. Document if travel outside US within last 6 months. If yes, document country.
46. Check if history of MRSA/VRE. If **yes**, explain.
47. Document last flu vaccine
48. Document last pneumococcal vaccine
49. Check **yes or no** for previous blood transfusion and explain
50. Check if reaction to anesthesia and explain
51. Check for family history of reaction to anesthesia and explain
52. Any use of cortisone, prednisone or other steroids used in last two years.
53. Signature of nurse completing admission section page 2

PAGE 2

54. Review and document by checking boxes, patient teaching done: r/t call bell, unit/room environmental, siderail procedure.
55. Assess and document in check box general appearance
56. Assess and document in check box or fill in skin assessment
57. Assess and document in check box patient's speaks a foreign language, if document language.
58. Assess and document in check box patient's gait
59. Assess and document neuromuscular status including whether rings removed and dominant hand if applicable.
60. Assess and document in check box patient's pulses.
61. Assess and document capillary refill if indicated.
62. Assess and document cardiovascular status in check box.
63. If patient complains of chest pain, fill in type, location, intensity, radiation, duration and any other comments.
64. Assess and document mental status in check box.
65. Assess and document neurological status by circling findings and total score
66. Assess and document pupil size and reaction if applicable

PAGE 3

67. Assess and document respiratory status.
68. Document peak flow, O<sub>2</sub> in use or room air (FA), O<sub>2</sub> sat if applicable.
69. Assess and document abdominal status in check box or check not applicable NA
70. Assess and document GU/GYN status, document foley size of applicable or check NA
71. Assess and document visual acuity or in both eyes and circle yes or no with corrective lenses if applicable.
72. Assess and document pain assessment for chronic pain. Write in location of pain. Check type of pain and duration: check constant/intermittent. Intensity: circle appropriate level face as stated by patient. What relieves pain: check box(es) that apply or fill in patient's statement. \*Document if patient/family verbalized understanding of pain scale.
73. Assess and document pain assessment (pain related to this admission). Write in location of pain. Check box for type of box and duration: check constant/intermittent. Intensity: circle appropriate level face as stated by patient. What relieves pain: check box(es) that apply or fill in patient's statement. \*Document if patient/family verbalized understanding of pain scale.
74. Document nursing diagnosis specific to patient.
75. Document plan and implementation of interventions, noting time and initial as indicated.
76. Ask patient if s/he feels unsafe or abused in the home environment; check box **yes/no**. If yes, explain and follow Abuse Policy. (This question is asking if patient is being abused.)
77. RN to initial
78. RN's signature
79. Assess and document pain, write in time, location, pain level 0-10 scale, intervention, initials.
80. Reassess and document patient's response to pain intervention per Policy 8620.034a: write in time, pain level 0-10 scale, comments and initials.

81. Write in time, medication administered, dose, route and initial each entry. Write stop time for all medications including IV solution therapy.

PAGE 4

82. Write vital signs as per reassessment policy and as indicated.
83. Write in focus entry.
84. Document using D.A.R. format
85. Time and initial each entry
86. Document time PMD called and time responded
87. Document if patient is admitted: to floor, to room number and to whom report was given
88. Write in po and IV intake
89. Write in urine output, check if patient voiding, if Foley inserted write in initial output upon insertion then total urine output.
90. Document vital signs and pain level upon discharge or transfer
91. Document discharge time including mode and by whom patient is accompanied. If patient leaves against medical advice, check appropriate box.
92. Document if patient expires and notifications
93. Document if patient is transferred: to where, method of transport, completion of EMTALA form documented.
94. Document
95. Write in time private medical doctor called
96. Write in time private medical doctor responded
97. If patient elopes, write in time and document in nurses notes pertinent information.
98. If transferred or admitted document name of person receiving report.
99. Document name of person receiving patient.
100. Document discharge instructions given by circling written/verbal, write in name of relationship to patient receiving instruction and understanding of instructions.
101. Document name of nurse/physician giving discharge instructions.
102. Write in any additional comments/interventions of discharge instructions including Rx given, school/work notes given
103. Initials of RN
104. Signature of RN

ED ONLY / TRIAGE												
<b>TRIAGE STATUS:</b> ① 1 2 3 4 5			<b>MODE OF ARRIVAL:</b> ② <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory <input type="checkbox"/> Squad <input type="checkbox"/> ALS <input type="checkbox"/> Carried <input type="checkbox"/> Stretcher <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair			<b>ARRIVED WITH:</b> ③ <input type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Son <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> Other						
<b>NAME:</b> ④			<b>AGE:</b> ⑥	<b>LAST TETANUS DATE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Within 5 Yrs <input type="checkbox"/> More Than 5 Yrs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A ⑦		<b>TREATMENT IN PROGRESS ON ARRIVAL:</b> ⑧ <input type="checkbox"/> CPR <input type="checkbox"/> ET Tube <input type="checkbox"/> S/P Collar <input type="checkbox"/> IV <input type="checkbox"/> CID <input type="checkbox"/> Restraints <input type="checkbox"/> Backboard <input type="checkbox"/> NTG <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> Splint <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin <input type="checkbox"/> EKG <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> FIO <sub>2</sub>						
<b>INFORMANT:</b> ⑨ <input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input type="checkbox"/> Other			<b>CHIEF COMPLAINT / SUBJECTIVE:</b> ⑩									
<b>OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:</b> ⑪												
<b>ED / HOSPITAL ADMISSION DATA BASE</b>					<b>INTERPRETER NEEDED:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Language: ⑫ or <input type="checkbox"/> American Sign Language Provided by: ⑬							
<b>WEIGHT:</b> ⑭ kg	<b>HEIGHT:</b> ⑮	<b>LMP:</b> ⑯	Pregnant- <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Breastfeeding- <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N ⑭	<b>VITAL SIGNS:</b> ⑰	<b>TEMP:</b> ⑱	<b>BLOOD PRESSURE:</b> ⑲	<b>PULSE:</b> ⑲	<b>RESP:</b> ⑲	<b>PULSE OX:</b> ⑲	<b>O<sub>2</sub> AMT:</b> ⑲	<b>INITIAL PAIN LEVEL:</b> ⑳
<b>PEDIATRIC PATIENTS ONLY:</b>	Vaccines Current: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain: ㉑	<b>ALLERGY / Reaction Information:</b> To Medication, Food, Herbs or Latex. List ALL with corresponding reaction. <input type="checkbox"/> Patient Denies Allergies ㉒	Immediate Intervention: _____	Pain Management reviewed with patient or significant other: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable								
<b>MEDICATIONS:</b> See MRF- Include use of prescribed, birth control pills, respiratory treatments, over-the-counter, herbal remedies, teas, vitamin therapy, complementary therapies. ㉓ <input type="checkbox"/> Patient on No Medication												
<b>MEDICAL/SURGICAL HISTORY INCLUDING HOSPITALIZATIONS</b> (Include Date & Location) <input type="checkbox"/> None / Denies ㉔												
History of Resistant Antibiotic Organism? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, explain: ㉕												
Alcohol Use: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Amt. per day: ㉖	Substance Use: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Amt. per day: ㉗	Caffeine: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Amt. per day: ㉘	<b>Tobacco Use by patient or family member:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Cigarettes <input type="checkbox"/> Cigar / Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing Tobacco How many years? ㉙	How long ago did you stop? _____								
<b>Barriers to Communication and Learning</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Denies												
	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	Physical limitation	Cultural/Religious Beliefs ㉚	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Learning Needs- Learning Style:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading <input type="checkbox"/> Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Doing				
			Emotional	Non English speaking					<b>Y</b>			
			Developmental	Able to read in native language				Able to read and comprehend English				
			Cognitive limitation (read/write)					Desire and motivation to learn				
<b>PMD:</b> ㉛	Patient notified PMD- <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>NURSING ACTION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Aseptic Dressing <input type="checkbox"/> Wound Cleaned <input type="checkbox"/> Elevation <input type="checkbox"/> Other ㉜	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Sterile Dressing <input type="checkbox"/> Ice <input type="checkbox"/> Splint <input type="checkbox"/> Urine Container Given <input type="checkbox"/> Xray	<input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right								
<b>NURSE'S SIGNATURE</b> (Completing): ㉝												
<b>ADMIT To:</b>	<b>ROOM:</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12D 12W	Time in ED: ㉞	By: ㉟									



\*H0007082\*

The following items were reviewed with the patient and/or Significant Other:  Call Bell  Unit/Room Environment  Side Rails (40)

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** (41)  
 Facial features symmetrical, Conjunctivae moist and pink, No observable masses or abnormalities.  
 Frail  Obese  Emaciated  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**SKIN ASSESSMENT:** (42)  
 Skin warm, dry and intact. Mucous membranes pink and moist. No cyanosis or jaundice noted. No rashes, blisters, lesions, ecchymosis noted.  
 Pale  Jaundiced  Cool  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Transdermal Patch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flushed  Mottled  Hot  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Body Piercings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cyanotic  Rash  Diaphoretic

**SPEECH:**  Clear and understandable. (43) **GAIT:**  Steady  Unsteady (44)  
 Loud  Talkative  
 Slurred  Mumbling  Foreign Language \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**NEUROMUSCULAR:**  N/A (45)  
 Absence of joint swelling/tenderness. No muscle weakness/contractions/atrophy. ROM of major joints. No paralysis, weakness, numbness or tingling noted.  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_  Swelling  Discoloration  Deformity  
 Pain with:  Movement  Weight Bearing  Palpation  
 History of Previous Injury  Abnormal Sensation or ROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Broken Skin  Rings Removed Dominant Hand:  Left  Right

**CARDIOVASCULAR:**  N/A  Regular apical pulse. No edema, S1 S2 clear. (46)  
 Heart Rate Irregular  JVD  
 Implantable Device \_\_\_\_\_ Insertion Date \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Chest Pain:** Type (47) Location \_\_\_\_\_ Intensity \_\_\_\_\_ (0-10)  
 Radiating \_\_\_\_\_ Duration \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Edema: Location/Assessment:**  None  Non-pitting Pitting:  1+  2+  3+  Anasarca **Capillary Refill:**  Normal  Sluggish  
**Pulses:** (0 = absent; D = doppler; 1+ = weak/thready; 2+ = normal; 3+ = bounding)  
 Radial- R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Post Tibial- R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ D. Pedal- R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPIRATORY:**  N/A (48)  
 Respirations 12-20/minute for adult, even and easy at rest. Breath sounds bilaterally clear and equal. Denies shortness of breath.  
 No cough noted.

**Respirations:**  Assisted  Labored  Retractions  Nonproductive **Breath Sounds:**  
 Shallow  Nasal Flaring  Orthopnea  Productive, Sputum Color \_\_\_\_\_ Wheezes  R  L Peak Flow: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deep  Stridor  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Sputum Consistency \_\_\_\_\_ Absent  R  L O<sub>2</sub>: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  Crying  Unresponsive  Slow to respond

**MENTAL STATUS ASSESSMENT:**  Awake, alert and oriented to person, place and time. Behavior appropriate to situation. (49)  
**Affect:**  Aggressive  Defensive  Unable to assess **Thoughts:**  Disorganized **Memory:**  Impaired  
 Flat  Hostile  Hallucinating  Confused  
 Crying  Unresponsive

**PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSESSMENT:** (50)  
 Has anyone ever physically or emotionally abused you? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No If Yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Has anyone taken your money or withheld/prevented you from obtaining food/shelter/medical care, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No  
 Do you have concerns about your safety in returning home? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

**NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT:**  Absence of dizziness, headache or seizures. Pupils equal, round and reactive to light. (51) **PUPILS SIZE**  
 Complete neurological assessment below if above neurological assessment and mental status abnormal.

		R	L
<b>Eyes Open:</b> Closed by Swelling = C	Spontaneously . . . . .	4	
	To Speech . . . . .	3	
	To Pain . . . . .	2	
	None . . . . .	1	
<b>Verbal Response:</b> ET tube or Trach = T	Oriented . . . . .	5	
	Confused . . . . .	4	
	Inappropriate Words . . . . .	3	
	Incomprehensible Sounds . . . . .	2	
<b>Motor Response:</b> Usually record best arm response	Obeys Commands . . . . .	6	
	Localizes Pain . . . . .	5	
	Flexion-Withdraws . . . . .	4	
	Flexion-Abnormal . . . . .	3	
<b>Plantar Flex and Dorsiflex:</b>	Extension . . . . .	2	
	None . . . . .	1	
	<b>Arms:</b>		
	Record Left and Right Sides	Normal Strength . . . . . 5 Good Strength . . . . . 4 Fair Strength . . . . . 3 Weak Movement . . . . . 2 Trace . . . . . 1 No Muscle Movement Pronator Drift +/- 0	
<b>Legs:</b>			
Record Left and Right Sides	Normal Strength . . . . . 5 Good Strength . . . . . 4 Fair Strength . . . . . 3 Weak Movement . . . . . 2 Trace . . . . . 1 No Muscle Movement . . . . . 0		
<b>Plantar Flex and Dorsiflex:</b>			
Record Left and Right Sides	Normal Strength . . . . . 5 Good Strength . . . . . 4 Fair Strength . . . . . 3 Weak Movement . . . . . 2 Trace . . . . . 1 No Muscle Movement . . . . . 0		
<b>TOTAL SCORE:</b>			
<b>EYES:</b> Size	Reaction		
R	L	R	L

(52)

**PUPIL REACTION:**  
 S = Sluggish  
 F = Fixed B = Brisk  
 C = Swollen Closed  
 X = Not Bound

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT - Continued**

**ABDOMEN:**  N/A (33)  
 Soft, bowel sounds present in all quadrants. No pain, masses, distention or rigidity on palpation. No nausea/vomiting noted. Denies blood in stool, diarrhea or constipation.  
 Rigid  Absent BS  Nausea  Diarrhea  Tender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Distended  Vomiting  Constipation Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**GU / GYN:**  N/A (34)  
 Denies pain or burning. Denies incontinence, frequency, hematuria, nocturia and retention. No urinary diversion/ostomy noted.  
 No vaginal bleeding. No penial discharge.  
 Urgency  Burning  Dysuria  Discolored \_\_\_\_\_  Vaginal Bleeding \_\_\_\_\_  Discharge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Frequency  Anuria  Incontinence  
 Foley in Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**VISUAL ACUITY:**  N/A  WNL (35)  
 With Corrective Lens-  Yes  No  Both \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

**PAIN ASSESSMENT: Not Related To This Admission (CHRONIC)** (36)  
 Pain/Discomfort:  No  Yes - Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type:  Burning  Dull  Pressure  Heavy  Sharp  
 Cramping  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Duration:  Constant  Intermittent  
 Intensity: \_\_\_\_\_ (0-10) / N / B / BIPS / FLACC / Facial  
 What Relieves the Pain? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Resting  Heat  Cold  Medication

**PAIN ASSESSMENT: Related To This Admission (ACUTE)** (37)  
 Pain/Discomfort:  No  Yes - Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type:  Burning  Dull  Pressure  Heavy  Sharp  
 Cramping  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Duration:  Constant  Intermittent  
 Intensity: \_\_\_\_\_ (0-10) / N / B / BIPS / FLACC / Facial  
 What Relieves the Pain? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Resting  Heat  Cold  Medication

**NURSING DIAGNOSIS:** (38)  
 Knowledge Deficit  Altered Thought Process  
 Mobility Impaired  Potential for Violence  
 Alteration in Comfort  Compliance with Previous Plans for Sober Life  
 Sensory/perception Altered  Impaired Gas Exchange  
 Impaired Skin Integrity  Ineffective Breathing Pattern  
 Potential for injury  Urinary Elimination/Alteration  
 Fluid Volume Deficit  Bowel Elimination/Alteration  
 Fluid Volume Excess  
 Altered Tissue Perfusion  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

Action	Time	Initials	Action	Time	Initials
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepared for Exam			<input type="checkbox"/> Restraints		
<input type="checkbox"/> Explain Procedure	(39)		<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Support		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brakes On			<input type="checkbox"/> Staff/Family Comm		
<input type="checkbox"/> Side Rails Up			<input type="checkbox"/> Explain Wait Time		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bed/Litter in Low Position			<input type="checkbox"/> Soak:		

**PAIN**

TIME	LOCATION	LEVEL	INTERVENTION	INIT	TIME	LEVEL	COMMENTS	INIT
	(40)						(41)	

Intensity (Level) 0-10: (0 = no pain - 10 = worst pain imaginable) A = asleep Reassessment with intensity scale

**MEDICATIONS**

TIME	MEDICATION	DOSE	ROUTE	Stop Time	INIT	TIME	MEDICATION	DOSE	ROUTE	Stop Time	INIT
	(42)										

**CRITICAL TEST RESULTS**

TIME	TEST	RESULT	READ BACK TO	MD NOTIFIED	TIME	INITIALS
	(43)					

