

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMS AGENCY  
BASIC & ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SKILL**



**PATIENT ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT**

**PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

The examinee will demonstrate proficiency in performing a complete medical or trauma assessment involving scene size-up, initial assessment, focused history, physical examination, ongoing assessment, and perform initial interventions as necessary.

**CONDITION**

The examinee will be requested to perform a complete medical or trauma assessment on a simulated patient and perform initial interventions as necessary. Required equipment will be either next to the patient or brought to the scene by the prehospital provider.

**EQUIPMENT**

Live model or manikin, oxygen tank with flow meter, oxygen tubing, BVM device, oxygen mask, nasal cannula, stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, pen light, timing device, clipboard, pen, long sleeves, goggles, masks, gown, gloves.

**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

100% accuracy required on all items designated by a diamond (◆) for skills testing and must manage successfully all items indicated by double asterisks (\*\*).

Appropriate body substance isolation precautions must be instituted as required for scenario given.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ EXAMINER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**PASS**

**FAIL**

1st    2nd    3rd (final)

**PREPARATION**

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
◆ Take body substance isolation precautions			

**SCENE SIZE-UP  
CRITICAL DECISIONS**

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
◆ Assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel/patient safety</li> <li>• Environmental hazards</li> <li>• Number of patients</li> <li>• Mechanism of injury</li> </ul>			
◆ Determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional resources</li> <li>• Specialized equipment</li> <li>• Need for extrication/spinal immobilization</li> </ul>			

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT  
CRITICAL MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORT DECISIONS**

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
◆ Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General impression</li> <li>• Life-threatening condition</li> </ul>			
◆ Establish patient rapport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the right questions</li> <li>• Respond with empathy</li> </ul>			

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
◆ Assess mental status/stimulus response (AVPU): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awake/not awake and orientation to environment</li> <li>• Verbal stimulus response</li> <li>• Painful stimulus response</li> <li>• Unresponsive</li> </ul> ** <b><i>Consider blood glucose level - <u>if unresponsive</u></i></b>			
◆ Assess/Manage airway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patent</li> <li>• Obstructed</li> </ul> ** <b><i>Open and clear/suction airway - <u>if indicated</u></i></b> ** <b><i>Consider basic airway adjuncts - <u>if indicated</u></i></b>			
◆ Assess/Manage breathing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rate</li> <li>• Effort</li> <li>• Tidal volume</li> <li>• Breath sounds (rapid chest auscultation) <i>if difficulty breathing/shortness of breath</i></li> </ul> ** <b><i>Consider O<sub>2</sub> therapy</i></b> ** <b><i>Consider BVM - <u>if inadequate ventilation</u></i></b>			
◆ Assess/Manage circulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulse - rate, rhythm, quality</li> <li>• Skin - color, temperature, moisture</li> <li>• Bleeding</li> <li>• Capillary refill - <i>if appropriate</i></li> </ul> ** <b><i>Control severe bleeding</i></b> ** <b><i>Consider shock position - <u>if hypotensive</u></i></b> ** <b><i>Consider monitor/AED - <u>if indicated</u></i></b> ** <b><i>Consider venous access - <u>if indicated</u></i></b>			
◆ Assess major disability & deformities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altered mental status</li> <li>• Neurological deficits</li> <li>• Abnormal body presentation (posture)</li> </ul>			
◆ Determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief complaint/problem</li> <li>• Focused history and physical examination</li> <li>• Transport decision</li> </ul>			
◆ Expose specific body area for detailed examination - <i>if pertinent</i>			

**FOCUSED HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**  
 ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇  
**RESPONSIVE MEDICAL / MINOR TRAUMA PATIENT**

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
◆ Assess current problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs and symptoms</li> <li>• Assess pain - <i>if pertinent</i>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- onset</li> <li>- provoking factor/relieving factor</li> <li>- quality</li> <li>- region/r/radiation/recurrence</li> <li>- severity (mild-severe or 1-10 scale)</li> <li>- time</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Assess current problem (Continued)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess difficulty breathing - <i>if pertinent</i>:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- onset</li> <li>- provoking factor</li> <li>- quality</li> <li>- recurrence and what treatment provides relief</li> <li>- severity</li> <li>- time</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Events leading to illness/mechanism of injury</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Obtain personal and past medical history:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Weight</li> <li>• Under physician's care/Private medical doctor</li> <li>• Pertinent history</li> <li>• Allergies</li> <li>• Medications</li> <li>• Last oral intake - <i>if pertinent</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Assess vital signs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiac status                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pulse - rate, rhythm, quality</li> <li>- ECG reading - <i>if indicated and available</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Respiratory status                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Respirations - rate, effort, tidal volume</li> <li>- Breath sounds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Blood pressure</li> <li>• Temperature - <i>if indicated</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Assess neurological status:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive orientation level - person, place, time</li> <li>• Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) - eyes, motor, verbal</li> <li>• Pupils - size, equality, reactivity, movement - <i>if indicated</i></li> <li>• Extremities-circulation, movement, strength, sensation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Examine injured or affected area</li> </ul>			
<b>FOCUSED HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION</b> ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇ <b>"UNRESPONSIVE MEDICAL / MAJOR TRAUMA PATIENT"</b>			
Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Perform detailed physical examination</li> <li>** <i>Manage specific problem or injury</i></li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Assess:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current medical history</li> <li>• Past medical history</li> <li>• OPQRST for pain/respiratory - <i>if indicated</i></li> <li>• Personal history</li> <li>• Vital signs</li> <li>• Neurological status</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

**ONGOING ASSESSMENT**



**STABLE PATIENTS AND PRIORITY (CRITICAL) PATIENTS**

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
◆ Repeat (every 5 minutes for <b>priority</b> patients and every 15 minutes for <b>stable</b> patients): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial assessment</li> <li>• Relevant portion of the focused examination</li> </ul>			
◆ Evaluate response to treatment			
◆ Compare results to baseline condition and vital signs			

**ELEMENTS FOR A DETAILED PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OR EXAMINATION OF A SPECIFIC BODY PART**



**MANAGEMENT OF SPECIFIC PROBLEM OR INJURY**

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
<p><b><u>HEAD - Skull, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth, Face</u></b></p> ◆ <u>Examine for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- drainage</li> <li>- deformity</li> <li>- contusions (raccoon eyes, Battle's sign)</li> <li>- abrasions</li> <li>- punctures/penetrations</li> <li>- burns/soot</li> <li>- lacerations</li> <li>- swelling</li> <li>- scars</li> <li>- eye movement</li> </ul> ◆ <u>Palpate for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- tenderness</li> <li>- instability</li> <li>- crepitus</li> </ul> ** <b><i>Maintain patent airway</i></b>			
<p><b><u>NECK/CERVICAL SPINE</u></b></p> ◆ <u>Examine for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deformity</li> <li>- contusions</li> <li>- abrasions</li> <li>- punctures/penetrations</li> <li>- burns</li> <li>- lacerations</li> <li>- swelling</li> <li>- scars</li> <li>- jugular vein distention (JVD)</li> <li>- tracheal deviation</li> <li>- accessory muscle use</li> <li>- medical alert tags</li> </ul> ◆ <u>Palpate for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- tenderness</li> <li>- instability</li> <li>- crepitus</li> <li>- subcutaneous emphysema</li> <li>- carotid pulses</li> </ul> ** <b><i>Maintain spinal immobilization - if indicated</i></b> ** <b><i>Apply occlusive dressing - if <u>puncture wound to neck</u></i></b>			

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
<p><b><u>CHEST - Clavicles Sternum, Ribs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <u>Examine for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deformity</li> <li>- contusions</li> <li>- abrasions</li> <li>- punctures/penetrations</li> <li>- paradoxical movement</li> <li>- burns</li> <li>- lacerations</li> <li>- swelling</li> <li>- scars</li> <li>- accessory muscle use</li> <li>- sucking chest wound</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <u>Palpate for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- tenderness</li> <li>- instability</li> <li>- crepitus</li> <li>- subcutaneous emphysema</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <u>Auscultate:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- breath sounds</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <u>Percuss - if breath sounds unequal</u></li> <li>** <b><u>Apply occlusive dressing to sucking chest wound - if indicated</u></b></li> <li>** <b><u>Splint flail segment - if paradoxical motion</u></b></li> <li>** <b><u>Decompress chest - if tension pneumothorax</u></b></li> </ul>			
<p><b><u>ABDOMEN/PELVIS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <u>Examine for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deformity</li> <li>- contusions</li> <li>- abrasions</li> <li>- punctures/penetrations</li> <li>- burns</li> <li>- lacerations</li> <li>- swelling</li> <li>- scars</li> <li>- distention</li> <li>- pulsating mass</li> <li>- incontinence</li> <li>- priapism</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <u>Palpate for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rigidity/guarding</li> <li>- tenderness</li> <li>- femoral pulses</li> <li>- crepitus</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<p><b><u>LOWER EXTREMITIES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <u>Examine for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deformity</li> <li>- contusions</li> <li>- abrasions</li> <li>- punctures/penetrations</li> <li>- burns</li> <li>- lacerations</li> <li>- swelling</li> <li>- scars</li> <li>- medical alert tags</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <u>Palpate for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pedal pulses</li> <li>- tenderness</li> <li>- instability</li> <li>- crepitus</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

Skill Component	Yes	No	Comments
<p><b><u>UPPER EXTREMITIES</u></b></p> <p>◆ <u>Examine for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deformity</li> <li>- contusions</li> <li>- abrasions</li> <li>- punctures/penetrations</li> <li>- burns</li> <li>- lacerations</li> <li>- swelling</li> <li>- medical alert tags</li> </ul> <p>◆ <u>Palpate for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- brachial/radial pulses</li> <li>- tenderness</li> <li>- instability</li> <li>- crepitus</li> </ul>			
<p><b><u>BACK</u></b> - posterior thorax, lumbar, buttocks</p> <p>◆ <u>Examine for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deformity</li> <li>- contusions</li> <li>- abrasions</li> <li>- punctures/penetrations</li> <li>- burns</li> <li>- lacerations</li> <li>- swelling</li> <li>- scars</li> </ul> <p>◆ <u>Palpate for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- tenderness</li> <li>- instability</li> <li>- crepitus</li> <li>- sacral edema</li> </ul>			

Developed 11/99  
 Finalized 1/00  
 Revised 1/01, 10/01, 12/01, 7/03