

## History and Physical Basic Principles and Frequently Asked Questions

### Basic Principles

#### Content:

#### An H&P must contain the following:

- 1) Date of admission and admitting Diagnosis
- 2) History
  - a) Identifying data: name, age, sex
  - b) Chief complaint
  - c) History of present illness
  - d) Current Medications
  - e) Allergies
  - f) Habits: tobacco, alcohol, other
  - g) Past medical and surgical history
  - h) Relevant past social and family history
- 3) Physical
  - a) Vital signs
  - b) General appearance
  - c) Neurological
  - d) HEENT/Neck: eyes including fundoscopic on all non-gestational diabetic patients (if not performed, state reason)
  - e) Heart
  - f) Lungs
  - g) Abdomen
  - h) Extremities including peripheral pulses in non-gestational diabetic patients
  - i) Genital/rectal: pelvic (if not performed, state reason); rectal/prostate (if not performed, state reason)
  - j) Laboratory results, as appropriate
- 4) Impression
- 5) Plan

#### H&P BASICS:

An H&P is to be completed and documented for each patient **no more** than 30 days prior to or 24 hours after hospital admission or registration, **but prior to surgery or a procedure requiring anesthesia services.**

The H&P may be handwritten or transcribed, but always must be placed within the patient's medical record within 24 hours of admission or registration, or prior to surgery or a procedure requiring anesthesia, whichever comes first.

An H&P is required prior to surgery and prior to procedures requiring anesthesia services, regardless of whether care is being provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis.

When the H&P is conducted within 30 days before admission or registration, an update must be completed and documented by a licensed practitioner who is credentialed and privileged by the hospital's medical staff to perform an H&P. The update must be performed within 24 hours AFTER admission or prior to surgery or a procedure requiring anesthesia, whichever comes first.

*Note: An H&P conducted the day before admission or registration **MUST** be updated as above.*

*An H&P that is completed within 24 hours of the patient's admission or registration, but after the surgical procedure, procedure requiring anesthesia, or other procedure requiring an H&P **would not be in compliance with this requirement.***

The updated examination of the patient, includes any changes in the patient's condition since the performance of the H&P.

The update to the H&P must be completed and documented by a physician licensed, privileged physician, an oromaxillofacial surgeon, or other qualified licensed individual in accordance with State law and hospital policy.

***ANY H&P older than 30 days is not acceptable. A NEW and COMPLETE H&P must be performed.***

### **Who can perform?**

Completing an H&P is an admitting privilege. Current members of the medical staff with privileges to admit patients have been granted this privilege. Emergency room physicians do not have privileges to admit, therefore they cannot complete an H&P to be used for admission. Do not confuse the document created in the ED by the ED Physician entitled ED H&P. This is not an acceptable H&P for admission.

Based on hospital policy and JC and CMS requirements, a history and physical completed by a physician who will not be performing the procedure/surgery

Based on hospital policy, a History and Physical completed by a physician that is licensed to practice in the state of New Mexico but not privileged at MountainView Regional Medical Center is acceptable, so as H&P meets all required elements of content and timing. Upon admission, this H&P must be updated to the patient's current condition by the admitting, privileged physician.