

Pertinent Negatives and Positives for Common Chief Complaints

New Scribes sometimes have difficulty determining what is relevant for the HPI versus ROS

This can be helpful for them to do better charting

Remember: If you are going to mark any of these symptoms positive, **your physician better know!**

Headache: fevers, chills, neck stiffness or pain, localized weakness, worst headache of life, thunderclap headache, slurred speech, carbon monoxide exposure, sinus congestion/pain, paresthesias, diplopia (double vision), blurred vision, recent trauma, change in mentation.

Chest Pain: shortness of breath, leg pain or swelling, palpitations, nausea, diaphoresis, arm pain, cough, fevers. Also address personal history of diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, and blood clotting disorders, and family history of heart disease, recent travel, recent surgery, prior DVT/PE.

Shortness of Breath: chest pain, palpitations, leg swelling, weight gain, cough (productive?), hemoptysis (coughing up blood), wheezing, fevers, chills.

Abdominal Pain: nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, hematochezia (red bloody stool), melanic stools (black tarry stool), urinary symptoms (dysuria, hematuria, frequency, urgency), flank pain, fevers, chills, chance of pregnancy, chest pain (epigastric).

Back Pain: lower extremity weakness, bowel or bladder concerns (urinary incontinence), paresthesias, trauma/injury to the back, family history of AAA (abdominal aortic aneurysm).

Syncope: headache (secondary to head trauma), confusion, localized weakness, seizure activity, slurred speech, diplopia, chest pain, palpitations, lightheadedness, DM (diabetes mellitus) history.

Weakness: chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, nausea, emesis, syncope, localized weakness, gait instability, facial droop, slurred speech, tremors, diplopia, seizure activity, dysphagia,

Dizziness: chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, nausea, emesis, syncope, localized weakness, gait instability, facial droop, slurred speech, tremors, diplopia, seizure activity, dysphagia.

Depression: SI (suicidal ideation), HI (homicidal ideation), recent suicide attempt or self injury, overdose, alcohol/drug use, anhedonia (inability to experience pleasure from activities usually found enjoyable), hyper/insomnia, feeling of worthlessness, helplessness.

Also address recent triggers: relationships, work, school?

SIGE CAPS: Suicidal ideation, Interest, Guilt, Energy --- Concentration, Appetite, Pleasure, Sleep

Fever: headache, neck stiffness or pain, chills, congestion, sore throat, cough, chest pain, dyspnea, abdominal pain, back pain, altered mental status, urinary symptoms, skin rash, decreased activity.
Pertinent positives: Tolerates oral intake.

Cough: shortness of breath, chest pain, fevers, wheezing, nasal congestion, sore throat.
Pertinent positives: Tolerates oral intake.

Sore Throat: dysphagia, throat swelling, voice change, stridor, nuchal rigidity, fevers, rhinorrhea, congestion, cough.
Pertinent positive: Tolerates oral intake.

Dental Pain: fevers, chills, facial swelling, dysphagia, trismus, headache, recent trauma, otalgia (ear pain), neck pain, history of previous dental pain.
Pertinent positive: Tolerates oral intake.

Groin Pain (Male): testicular swelling, urinary complaints (frequency, urgency, dysuria, hematuria), penile discharge, back/flank pain, abdominal pain, history of STDs, history of hernia (inguinal).

Vaginal Bleeding: current or recent pregnancy (Para, Gravida), dizziness, history of STD.

MVC: Loss of consciousness, headache, neck pain, chest pain, back pain, pain to the extremities/
These are things that should be addressed in the HPI: Were they seatbelted? Was there airbag deployment? Speed of motor vehicles involved? Damage done to vehicle? Were they immobilized in a longboard and cervical collar prior to arrival?

Fall: Loss of consciousness, hitting head, chest pain, back pain, pain/injury to extremities.

Seizure: syncope, head injury/headache, tremors, localized weakness, slurred speech, dysphagia, diplopia, recent sexual activity.

Stroke: localized weakness, facial droop, slurred speech, vision changes (blurred vision, diplopia), numbness, syncope

UTI: dysuria, hematuria, frequency, abdominal pain, flank pain, back pain, penile/vaginal discharge, fevers.

Pediatric: decreased activity, sore throat, headache, fevers, rash, abdominal pain, urinary symptoms.
Pertinent positive: Tolerating oral intake.

Extremity: trauma/injury to extremity, localized weakness, open wounds, paresthesias, difficulty ambulating, swelling, erythema, cyanosis, other injuries