

# Calling the Doctor

What should I say?



# Introductions/Opener

- Introduce who you are
- Introduce where you are calling from
- Identify who you are calling about
  - When stating the resident's name, be sure to spell out the last name to avoid any misunderstanding
  - Give unit location/number and room number
  - If calling the on-call physician, specify resident's attending physician



# Explain Situation – Why are you calling?

- State the resident's complaints
  - A new complaint
  - Request for medication
  - Change in resident's status
  - Critical lab value

# History of Present Illness

- Explain onset of symptoms
- Any factors identified that make the symptoms better or worse
- How does the resident explain their symptoms (quality of symptoms)?
- Region of the body where the resident is experiencing symptoms
- If complaints of pain, does pain radiate?
- Severity of symptoms
- How the symptoms have changed over time and if the resident has experienced them in the past

# Brief Medical History

- Describe reason resident was admitted
- Provide brief overview of medical history and include related diagnoses
- Past surgeries that may be related to current symptoms and when they were performed
- Past hospitalizations, reasons, and timing
- Current medications including dosages, frequency, and last administration



# Provide Background

- Giving detail into the background of the situation will help communicate the resident's need to the physician
- Pertinent conditions that run in resident's family
- Social history, previous occupation, history or current alcohol/tobacco use, other substance abuse
- Describe reason resident was admitted

# Assessment

- As the nurse, it is your responsibility to assess the resident first when there is a change noted
- This does not necessarily mean a full head to toe assessment is needed at this moment; however, vitals and a quick physical assessment of systems involved should be obtained
- Be sure vitals and assessments are up-to-date  
Utilizing vitals from 3 hours prior will not be helpful other than using them as a comparison
- Include general impression of resident



# Recommendations and Suggestions

- Being a routine care giver for the resident can help paint a picture of what may have worked or could work for the resident's situation
- Read back and verify any orders received



# Resources

- [Calling the Doctor - Giving Nurse to Provider report | Health And Willness](#)
- [Nursing communication skills: Giving report to a doctor | LevelUpRN](#)
- [How To Present a Patient: A Step-To-Step Guide - Student Doctor Network](#)

# Thank You

