

Compliance Department

ELEMENTS OF NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION

11/2010

Elements of Neurological Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Neurological
<u>Constitutional</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurement of any three of the following seven vital signs: 1) sitting or standing blood pressure, 2) supine blood pressure, 3) pulse rate and regularity, 4) respiration, 5) temperature, 6) height, 7) weight (May be measured and recorded by ancillary staff)• General appearance of patient (e.g., development, nutrition, body habitus, deformities, attention to grooming)
<u>Eyes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ophthalmoscopic examination of optic discs (e.g., size, C/D ratio, appearance) and posterior segments (e.g., vessel changes, exudates, hemorrhages)

Elements of Neurological Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Neurological
<u>Cardiovascular</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination of carotid arteries (e.g., pulse amplitude, bruits)• Auscultation of heart with notation of abnormal sounds and murmurs• Examination of peripheral vascular system by observation (e.g., swelling, varicosities) and palpation (e.g., pulses, temperature, edema, tenderness)
<u>Musculoskeletal</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination of gait and station <p>Assessment of motor function including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muscle strength in upper and lower extremities• Muscle tone in upper and lower extremities (e.g., flaccid, cod wheel, spastic) with notation of any atrophy or abnormal movements (e.g., fasciculation, tardive dyskinesia)

Elements of Neurological Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Neurological
Extremities	[See musculoskeletal]
<u>Neurological</u>	Evaluation of higher integrative functions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation to time, place and person• Recent and remote memory• Attention span and concentration• Language (e.g., naming objects, repeating phrases, spontaneous speech)• Fund of knowledge (e.g., awareness of current events, past history, vocabulary)

Elements of Neurological Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Neurological
<u>Neurological</u> <u>(Continued)</u>	Test the following cranial nerves: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd cranial nerve (e.g., visual fields, fundi)• 3rd, 4th and 6th cranial nerves (e.g., pupils, eye movements)• 5th cranial nerve (e.g., facial sensation, corneal reflexes)• 7th cranial nerve (e.g., facial symmetry, strength)• 8th cranial nerve (e.g., hearing with tuning fork, whispered voice and/or finger rub)• 9th cranial nerve (e.g., spontaneous or reflex palate movement)• 11th cranial nerve (e.g., shoulder shrug strength)• 12th cranial nerve (e.g., tongue protrusion)

Elements of Neurological Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Neurological
<u>Neurological (Continued)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination of sensation (e.g., by touch, pin, vibration, proprioception)• Examination of deep tendon reflexes in upper and lower extremities with notation of pathological reflexes (e.g., Babinski)• Test coordination (e.g., finger/nose, heel/knee/shin, rapid alternating movements in the upper and lower extremities, evaluation of fine motor coordination in young children)

Elements of Neurological Examination

Content and Documentation Requirements

Level of Exam

Perform and Document:

Problem Focused

One to five elements identified by a bullet.

Expanded Problem Focused

At least six elements identified by a bullet.

Detail

At least twelve elements identified by a bullet.

Comprehensive

Perform **all** elements identified by a bullet; document every element in an **Underlined/bold** box and at least one element in a non-underlined/bold box.

Resources

- UCLA Compliance Office
 - Marti Arvin, Chief Compliance Officer (310) 794-6763
- Confidential Hotline 1-800 296-7188
- UCLA Compliance Website <http://www.mednet.ucla.edu/compliance/>.