

Compliance Department

ELEMENTS OF PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION

11/2010

Elements of Psychiatric Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Psychiatric
<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)
Musculoskeletal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of muscle strength and tone (e.g., flaccid, cog wheel, spastic) with notation of any atrophy and abnormal movements.• Examination of gait and station.

Elements of Psychiatric Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Psychiatric
<u>Psychiatric</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of speech including: rare; volume; articulation; coherence; and spontaneity with notation of abnormalities (e.g., perseveration, paucity and language) • Description of thought processes including: rate of thoughts; content of thoughts (e.g., logical vs. illogical, tangential); abstract reasoning; and computation • Description of associations (e.g., loose, tangential, circumstantial, intact) • Description of abnormal or psychotic thoughts including; hallucinations; delusion; preoccupation with violence; homicidal or suicidal ideation and obsession • Description of the patient’s judgment (e.g., concerning everyday activities and social situations) and insight (e.g., concerning psychiatric condition)

Elements of Psychiatric Examination

System/ Body Area	Elements of Examination Psychiatric
<u>Psychiatric</u> <u>(Continued)</u>	Complete mental status examination 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)• Fund of knowledge (e.g., awareness of current events, past history, vocabulary)• Mood and affect (e.g., depression, anxiety, agitation, hypomania, lability)

Elements of Psychiatric 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 nine 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/>.