

Scenario Example – severe infection / open fracture

Number of pages: 3

A 32 year-old woman has been brought to your department by NEMS. The NEMS paramedic is available to give a handover.

Handover from NEMS: This 32 year old woman has fallen from a high rock in a remote part of the provinces. She is now four days post-injury. She has an obvious fracture of her left femur and a swollen left calf. The leg is red with pus coming from the wound. She appears very confused.

ASSESSMENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	KEY POINTS	YES	NO
A	Airway: patent	A Correctly Assessed		
		C-spine protected given mechanism of injury		
B	Respiratory rate: 30	B Correctly Assessed		
	Oxygen saturations: ? Listening to chest: clear	Need for oxygen communicated		
C	BP: 100/40 HR: 120 Other Findings: bounding pulse Response to fluid: good response	C Correctly Assessed		
		C Problems assessed and concern communicated + actioned		
		IV access		
		Blood tests		
		Fluid bolus x2 after assessing for response & checking for overload		
D	AVPU: V (confused)	AVPU correctly assessed		
		No further actions; appropriately recognised and move on		
E	E findings: open fracture left femur. Wound is dirty and purulent. Erythematous skin Temperature: 39 celcius	E Assessed Adequately		
		Asks for temperature		
		Urgent IV antibiotics		
		Communicates need for wound cleaning, irrigation, splinting		

SBAR		SBAR communicated clearly to NEMS		
		Correctly identifies and communicates that patient requires transfer for surgery and further management of severe infection		
		Prepares patient for transfer, including c-spine protection, ongoing antibiotic and fluid therapy		

Diagnosis: Severe infection from open femoral fracture

Learning Objectives

- Collaboration with NEMS to receive handover
- Confident use of the ABCDE
- Appropriately ask for help and communicate concerns
- Clinical assessment and recognition of diagnosis (open fracture, infection)
- Demonstrate appropriate initial management of diagnosis (fluid resuscitation, IV antibiotics, wound care)
- Demonstrate understanding of need for transfer for definitive management (surgical)
- Prepares patient for transfer (c-spine immobilization, antibiotics, oxygen, fluids)
- Confident and effective use of SBAR format to handover

Debrief

Responses to the debrief questions are meant to reflect learning; they require more than yes or no answers. Reflect afterwards on this discussion for your logbook.

1. What did you think was happening?
2. What did you do and why?
3. Do you think your interventions were helpful? Describe how. If not, explain why.
4. Did the team members communicate effectively with each other? Provide examples.
5. Did the team members communicate effectively with the patient? Provide examples.
6. How efficient was the teamwork? Provide examples.
7. What aspects of this scenario exercise can you apply to your clinical practice? How might you apply those aspects?