Yes-No Communication Instructions

1. The patient communicates by: ________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. After you ask your question, count to 10. When a person is learning a
different way of answering, and when they are sick, it takes a long time to
respond. Please be very, very patient.

3. Make sure you face the patient when you speak.

4. First, make sure the patient has a good **YES** response that is easy to
read and is reliable. Everyone who speaks with the patient should know
the way he/she responds. Be sure to tell the patient what response you will
be looking for.

5. First, set the main topic area.

   **ASK:** DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT

   COMFORT
   FAMILY
   MEDICAL PROBLEM
   FEELING
   NURSING HELP
   YOUR ROOM
4. When the main topic area has been set up, continue with the subtopics under the selected main heading. Repeat if necessary. You will be reading the board to the patient. You should also hold it up and use your finger to point out the headings.

You will be going from very general topics of conversation to specific names and words. These instructions are intended to give some guidance to you to help identify needs and feelings quickly so that the patient can control his expression.

REMINDERS:
* Don’t “shout”. The patient isn’t deaf, he just can’t move!
* Re-instruct and repeat your words if a communication problem occurs.
* Be flexible. These are just guidelines, not gospel!

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COMFORT
FAMILY
MEDICAL PROBLEM
FEELING
NURSING HELP
YOUR ROOM
SOMETHING ELSE
COMFORT

TEMPERATURE:
  I’M TOO HOT
  I’M TOO COLD
  FEET COLD
  NEED A FAN
  NEED A BLANKET

ITCH

WASH

BEDDING

POSITIONING

ROOM LIGHTING
LIGHTS
WINDOW COVERING
FAMILY

Names of family members:
NURSING HELP

IV
MEDICATIONS
SUCTION
BREATHING
SLEEP / REST
UP IN CHAIR
BACK TO BED
DENTURES / GLASSES
BEDPAN
FEELINGS

ANGRY

AFRAID

ANXIOUS

ASHAMED

DEPRESSED

HAPPY

INADEQUATE

RELIEVED

SAD

OTHER
OTHER THINGS

ARRANGEMENTS

MONEY
MEDICAL PROBLEMS

SUCTION

PAIN

CAN’T SLEEP

CAN’T BREATHE

TALK TO NURSE / DOCTOR

MEDICATION

BODY PARTS

HEAD    EYES    THROAT    ARMS/HANDS    CHEST
HAIR    EARS    NECK    LEGS/FEET    BACK
FACE    NOSE    SHOULDERS    TOES    BOTTOM
MOUTH    FINGERS