



Oregon Health & Science University
School of Medicine, Department of Neurology

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	