

# History & Physical (H&P)

The following is intended to provide an overview of the required elements of a History and Physical. Circumstances vary, of course, and the details are provided in the Hospital Administration Manual, Policy 06-017:

[http://nursing.uchc.edu/hosp\\_admin\\_manual/docs/06-017.pdf](http://nursing.uchc.edu/hosp_admin_manual/docs/06-017.pdf)

This brief tutorial will broadly review the required elements of Inpatient and Outpatient H&P.

# INPATIENT History & Physical

## RESPONSIBILITY:

For patients admitted to UConn John Dempsey Hospital.

Every patient admitted for inpatient care must have a medical history taken and an appropriate physical examination completed and documented by a qualified, licensed practitioner.

The **attending practitioner** is responsible for ensuring that the H&P is complete and finalized, including conclusions or impressions and a planned course of action.

All H&Ps must be **authenticated by the attending physician**. The attending physician must indicate that the H&P has been reviewed and must sign, date, and time the entry.

# INPATIENT History & Physical

## CURRENCY:

H&Ps must be completed no more than 30 days before admission (starting with day one as the day of the H&P exam, continuing to day of surgery) and no more than twenty-four (24) hours after admission, except in the circumstance where the patient is undergoing a procedure requiring sedation and/or anesthesia, in which case the H&P must be completed prior to the procedure\*.

If the procedure is performed under local anesthesia only, or with no anesthetic, then no H&P is required.

\*Note this is also a Medical Staff Bylaws requirement.

# INPATIENT History & Physical

## DOCUMENTATION:

The H&P will be documented preferably on a form clearly titled as such.

May be taken from other entries in the medical record that clearly state the purpose is to serve as the pre-procedure or pre-operative H&P.

The attending practitioner may review other notes that have been entered in the record within the past 30 days that contain all required elements of an H&P and verify the entry constitutes a pre-procedure H&P by documenting that verification in the record.

# INPATIENT History & Physical

## REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

History: Chief complaint, Reason for admission, Present illness, Past illnesses, Relevant past and social history, Review of systems, Current medications, Allergies

Physical Exam: Appropriate for the patient and nature of the problem. Procedures involving anesthesia or sedation must include cardiac and pulmonary.

# OUTPATIENT History & Physical

## NECESSITY:

For patients presenting as an outpatient.

An outpatient procedure does not need an H&P if the procedure is performed without anesthesia or with only local anesthesia; in the opinion of the provider, it is safe to perform the procedure in an outpatient office setting; and no post-procedure 'recovery' [monitoring] is needed.

# OUTPATIENT History & Physical

## RESPONSIBILITY:

The **attending practitioner** performing the procedure is responsible for ensuring that the H&P is complete and finalized.

All H&Ps must be **authenticated by the attending physician**. The attending physician must indicate that the H&P has been reviewed and must sign, date, and time the entry.

# OUTPATIENT History & Physical

## CURRENCY:

H&Ps must be completed no more than 30-days before the procedure.

For all patients undergoing surgical procedures or any procedure that requires anesthesia, H&Ps performed more than 24-hours prior to admission or registration must be updated prior to the surgery or procedure.

The content of the update entry must indicate that the H&P has been reviewed, the patient examined, and whether or not the practitioner/attending physician concurs with the information documented in the H&P.

If there are changes, the practitioner / attending physician must document additions and/or exceptions to the H&P and must sign, date, and time the entry.



# OUTPATIENT History & Physical

## DOCUMENTATION:

The H&P will be documented preferably on a form clearly titled as such.

But, may be taken from other entries in the medical record that clearly state the purpose is to serve as the pre-procedure H&P.

The attending practitioner may review other notes that have been entered in the record within the past 30-days that contain all required elements of an H&P and verify the entry constitutes a pre-procedure H&P by documenting that verification in the record.

# OUTPATIENT History & Physical

## REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

An outpatient procedure that requires an H&P must include the following.

History: Relevant past medical history; Review of systems that includes cardiac, pulmonary, and any other system(s) pertinent to the procedure; current list of medications; and allergies.

Physical Exam: Cardiac and pulmonary