

# EMS PATIENT INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

**GLOSSARY:**  
EMS (Emergency Medical Service) / Paramedics – Ratownictwo medyczne  
draw blood – pobrać krew  
apply traction splint – założyć szynę  
referral – skierowanie (tu: wezwanie)  
wheezing - świszczanie (w płucach)  
vital signs – oznaki życiowe

## Read the text and label the sentences True or False

Using defibrillator, drawing blood or applying traction splint are very important skills.

However, the only skill that is performed on every patient is assessment.

Good interview with a patient is a must. The interview starts with you having an interest in your patient’s condition, putting yourself at the patient’s eye level, speaking slowly and carefully in language patient can understand. Find out the patient’s name and use it.

Avoid calling the patient e.g. “honey.” What data make up the content of the patient history? Date, identifying data, source of referral, chief complaint, present illnesses, past medical history, etc. Chief complaint is one or more symptoms for which the patient is seeking medical attention. Past history concerns general state of health, childhood/adult illnesses, psychiatric illnesses, accidents and injuries, operations, hospitalizations. Ask why the patient is seeking medical help, use open-ended questions. There are several attributes of a symptom: location, quantity, quality, timing, setting, factors making it better or worse. To determine the quantity or severity use scale e.g. 1 to 10.

- a) The initial step in helping patient is an interview
- b) You don’t have to be on the same level as the patient
- c) You should try to address the patient by name
- d) Chief complaint is usually the reason of referral
- e) Ask question so the patient can answer “Yes” or “No”
- f) If you ask about pain, where it is located ask how big it is

## Read the information a paramedic is reporting to a doctor then think what questions the paramedic may ask the patient?:

“We have a 53-year-old man reporting severe shortness of breath which wakened him from sleep and is worse when he is lying down. He has a history of hypertension and takes chlorothiazide. He is alert but in significant respiratory distress. He has swollen ankles. The man is allergic to aspirin....”

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## Watch the video and collect necessary information about the patient <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW-ZRo6GJnA>

Name:

Age:

Reason of admission:

Other symptoms:

Medication:

Why should you take the whole dosage of antibiotics?

Smoking:

Vital signs/results:

Recommended medication:

Next appointment:

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