

Comprehension Supports for Patients



Comprehension Supports for Patients:

Purpose

- These communication tools are intended for patients that are admitted to a hospital and require additional resources to access health care safely.
- Populations may include, but are not limited to, patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder, intellectual disabilities, Dementia, Aphasia, pediatric patients, or those with altered cognition.
- Supports are intended to be customizable.
 - For example, you may consider asking family or caregivers to electronically provide pictures that can be inserted in the “I LIKE” page.

Comprehension Supports for Patients: Instructions



1. **Print and bind** resources together as a booklet (e.g. hole punch and place into binder or staple together)
2. **Orient** all communication partners to topic/communication board
 - How to use:
 - i. “First, Then, Done” boards: Point to the intended photos and state instructions using simplified language. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First wait. Then drink."
 - ii. "I Like" board: Consider writing terms for and obtaining electronic pictures of special interests. (i.e. trusted individuals, TV, objects that provide comfort)
 - iii. "Wait and Go" cue card: Print and fold the page. Use to cue patient and regulate interactions or cares.
4. **Identify access method** – How will the patient choose a message? (e.g. pointing, indicating “yes” given choices, etc.) For instructions on partner-assisted scanning, please see the next page.
5. **Read selected messages aloud** to ensure selection accuracy
6. **Ask follow up questions**
7. **Explore emotions and reactions**
8. **Allow extra time** for the patient to respond

If it's hard for patient to point, please use "partner-assisted scanning"

This is how:

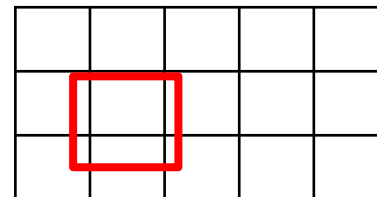
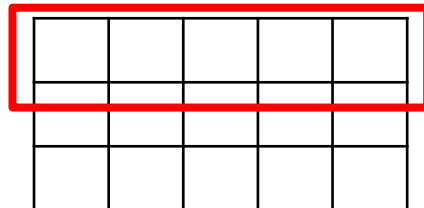


Ask patient to focus on the communication board and find the message they want to communicate.
Establish patient's "yes" (i.e. nodding, blinking, thumbs up, etc.)

- 1. Proceed row by row. Point to each row and ask if the desired message is in that row**
(e.g. point to 1st row and ask, "Is it in this row?" followed by 2nd row, and so on)
- 2. Patient will select a row using the established YES response. Verify the choice out loud.**
- 3. Point to each message within the selected row ("Is it suction?" "Trouble breathing," etc.).**
- 4. Patient will signal that you are pointing to the desired message using established YES response.**
- 5. Confirm the selection & repeat.**

Additional Considerations:

- Hold this tool ~12 inches (~30 cm) from the patient's face.
- Ensure good lighting, head positioning, and vision.
- Speak **loudly** and **clearly** using **simple language**.
- Wearing masks and other PPE may make it difficult to understand speech. Consider using communication tools when speaking to the patient as well.
- If the patient can't use this tool effectively now, that does not mean the patient won't be able to use it later today, tomorrow, or this week. Continue to provide opportunities to support communication.



1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

GLOVES



CLOTHES



GOGGLES



GOWN



MASKS



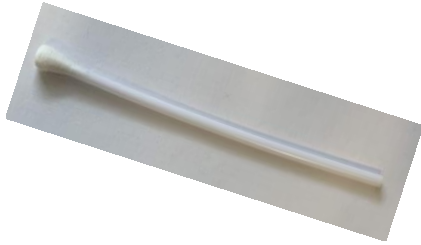
Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First temperature. Then blood pressure. Done."

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

**COTTON
SWAB**



NOSE



COVID TEST



MOUTH



BLOOD



Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First temperature. Then blood pressure. Done."

1 FIRST

2 THEN



DONE

COVID TEST

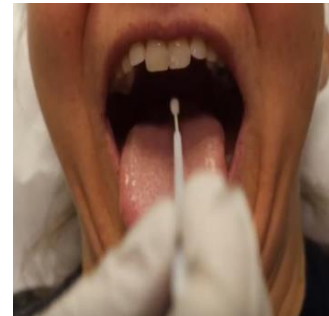


A nurse wearing special clothes will give me a test.



The nurse will put a Q-tip in my nose.

OR



The nurse will put a Q-tip in my throat.

AND



The nurse may poke my arm.

My doctors and nurses need to find out why I'm sick.
It may feel strange. It's okay. I will sit still. It will be over soon.

Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First temperature. Then blood pressure. Done."

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

COVID TEST WITH SAFETY WALL

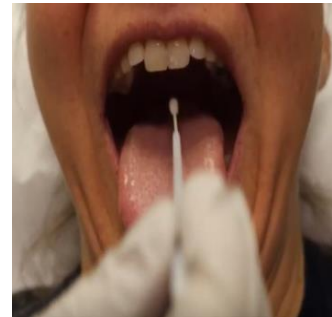


A nurse wearing special clothes will give me a test.



The nurse will put a Q-tip in my nose.

OR



The nurse will put a Q-tip in my throat.

AND



The nurse may poke my arm.

My doctors and nurses need to find out why I'm sick.
It may feel strange. It's okay. I will sit still. It will be over soon.

Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First temperature. Then blood pressure. Done."

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

LISTEN TO BREATH



TEMPERATURE



VITALS



BLOOD PRESSURE



CHECK OXYGEN



Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First temperature. Then blood pressure. Done."

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

BREATHING TUBE



CHEST SCAN



BLOOD / IV

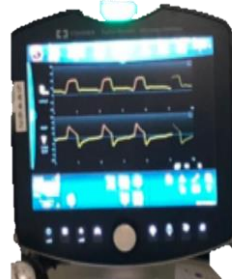


IT'S TIME FOR

SLEEP MEDICINE



BREATHING
MACHINE



EKG



Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First temperature. Then blood pressure. Done."

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

TAKE MEDICINE



LIE ON STOMACH



LIE ON SIDE



IT'S TIME TO

SUCTION



PUT TUBE IN
NOSE



CHECK OXYGEN



Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game." or "First temperature. Then blood pressure. Done."

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

I LIKE



Add photos of interests and write in labels (i.e. people, comfort items, preferred activities, etc.). Point to targets, starting with “First + item/activity,” to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point (e.g. “First eat. Then game.”)

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

I LIKE



Add photos of interests and write in labels (i.e. people, comfort items, preferred activities, etc.). Point to targets, starting with "First + item/activity," to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point (e.g. "First eat. Then game.")

1 FIRST

2 THEN

☒ **DONE**

EAT



DRINK



PAIN



POLICE/HELPER

GAME



SIT DOWN



CALL MY FAMILY



Point to targets to tell your patient what is about to happen. Say the message out loud as you point. For example, "First eat. Then game."

A red octagonal sign with a thick black border. The word "WAIT" is written in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

WAIT

A green octagonal sign with a thick black border. The word "GO" is written in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

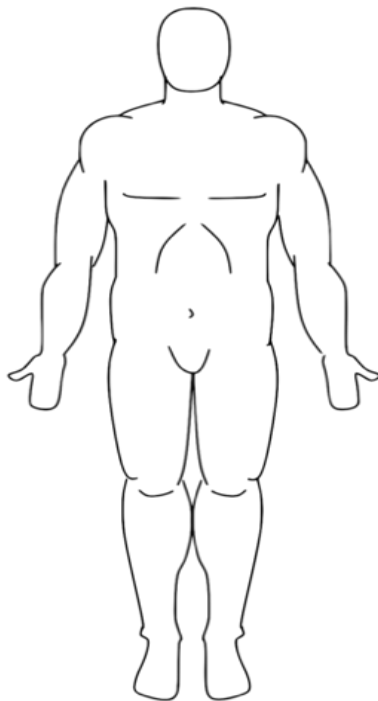
GO

Fold this page in half along the dotted line. Cue your patient when it is time to wait or pause an activity. Turn the page around to signal when it is time to go or resume.



**I AM
BRAVE**

I AM IN PAIN



0

1

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