

## “RAPID” Mnemonic for Managing Patients in the Emergency Department – An Educational Tool

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### Problem Statement

It is understandable that junior trainees find the Emergency Department (ED) to be a challenging working environment. Patients present to the ED with acute illness, which may require immediate intervention. They frequently experience pain or discomfort. They often do not receive the privacy or empathy they need to cope with their emergency. Underlying social determinants of health often contribute to their ED presentation. A definitive diagnosis is often not immediately obtainable necessitating the arrangement of appropriate follow up as part of patient management.

### Approach

We have developed a memory aid, called RAPID to help learners in the ED focus on all aspects of patient management in a comprehensive and efficient manner, making the CanMEDS competencies more explicit. The “RAPID” approach puts the traditionally taught history and physical examination into the appropriate context of the ED encounter, and emphasizes important, but often neglected areas of patient management. It has been designed to function like a mental checklist, where you can not move on until you are satisfied that each criteria is met. The “RAPID” mnemonic consists of five components:

### The Product

RAPID	Prompting Questions	CanMEDS
<b>Resuscitation</b>	Does my patient require any resuscitative interventions? Do their vital signs and/or chief complaint raise concerns which need close monitoring? Does their chief complaint mandate urgent investigations for possible time-sensitive illness (Stroke, MI, Sepsis)?	Medical Expert Communicator Collaborator Manager
<b>Analgesia &amp; Assessment</b>	Is my patient in any pain or discomfort? Should I address it now, or after my full assessment? History & Physical Exam? What is my Differential Diagnosis?	Health Advocate Communicator Collaborator
<b>Patient Needs</b>	What are my patient’s non-medical needs? How will their social situation impact my management plan?	Communicator Health Advocate Professional
<b>Interventions</b>	What tests will I order? What treatments will I provide? What is the end-point of my work-up? What will I do if all of my tests are normal?	Medical Expert Scholar Manager
<b>Disposition</b>	If I am sending home my patient, do they understand their diagnosis or suspected diagnosis? Prescriptions? When to return if things change? Do I need to arrange follow-up tests/consultations? What is the contingency plan if they do not hear from them? Can I address any preventative health issues?	Health Advocate Professional Communicator Collaborator Manager

The RAPID mnemonic was developed by the authors after reviewing the relevant literature. It was subjected to content validation by an additional cohort of practicing nurses, medical students, emergency medicine residents and practicing Emergency Physicians.

Trainees receive a one hour small group teaching session, applying the RAPID mnemonic to five hypothetical cases. They receive a pocket-card to use as reference during their clinical shifts.

### **Conclusion**

The RAPID mnemonic can be used to teach junior learners a comprehensive, CanMEDS based approach to patient care in the Emergency Department

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