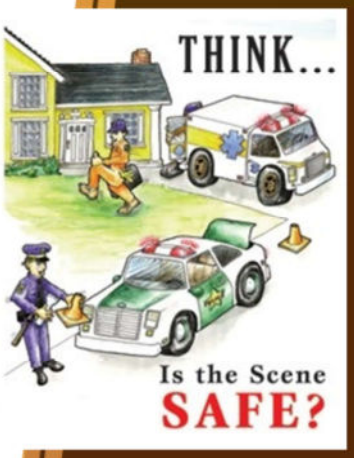


Thank you, Justin. It's time to review these three lessons before you move on to the quiz. Patient assessment is the term used to describe the process of identification of the condition, needs, abilities and preferences of a patient. Let's recap what we learned so far in this chapter.

Scene Size-up and Safety

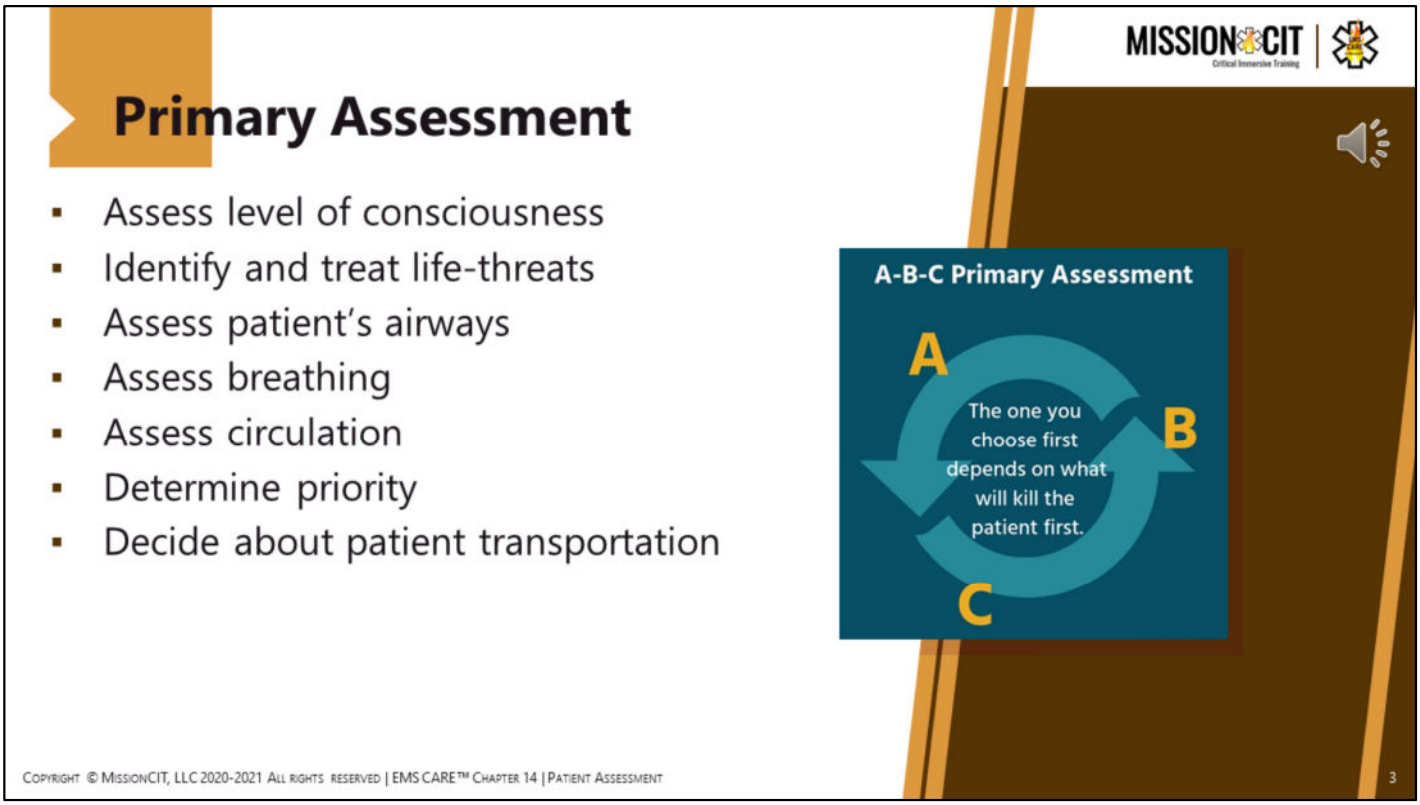
- Cues from dispatch desk call
- Scene size-up
- BSI and PPE
- Common physical and environmental hazards
- Evaluate the scene
- Activate ICS and triage
- Need for additional help
- Danger zone



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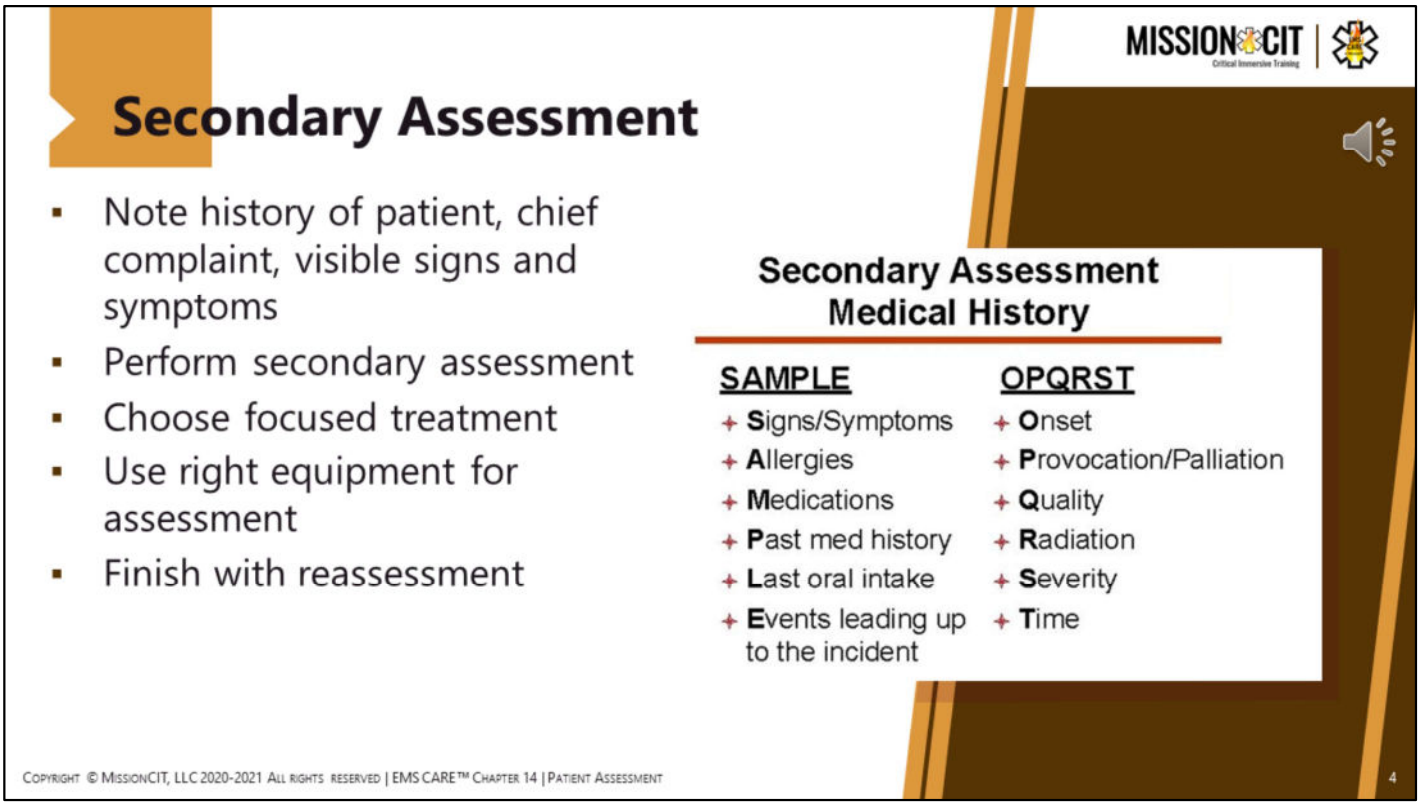
Emergency medical calls fall into two broad categories, namely, traumatic injuries and calls related to medical conditions, or sometimes a combination of both. At the time of dispatch, you must get cues from the dispatch desk call. The scene could be potentially unsafe, so scene size up is an important step in the quality of care offered and protecting yourself and others. Consider body substance isolation (BSI) and always have personal protective equipment (PPE) available at all times. You must watch out for common physical and environmental hazards. An emergency can turn violent at any time, so constantly evaluate the scene. Scene size-up also includes assessing the number of patients by activating the Incident Command System and following triage. Consider if you need additional help or the presence of specialized resources.

The danger zone must be fixed based on the danger at the scene. Dangers may include motor vehicle accidents, oil spills, a vehicle on fire, broken wires, or the presence of hazardous material.



In the second lesson, we spoke about the different assessments you can undertake to determine the condition of the patient and the nature of the illness or trauma. We began with primary assessment.

- Assess the level of consciousness, it can tell a lot about the patient's psychological and neurological condition. Use the AVPU tool for this.
- Identify and treat life-threats. Decide if you need to follow ABC or CAB.
- Assess the patient's airways and stay alert for any obstructions.
- Next, assess the breathing to ensure that it is present and is adequate.
- Assessing the circulation involves checking the mental status, pulse, and skin condition.
- Based on your assessment, determine the priority, address any life-threatening conditions and stabilize the patient.
- Lastly, at the end of your primary assessment, decide if the patient needs to be transported.



Lastly, let's talk about secondary assessment, which is a more detailed assessment of the patient and is often done in non-emergency situations. Listed below are some steps to be followed:

- Take down the history of the patient, note the chief complaint, visible signs and symptoms along with demographic information. You may use the OPQRST or SAMPLE to gather information from the patient, family members or bystanders.
- Perform the secondary assessment, it can be done at the scene, in the back of an ambulance or you can choose not to do it at all.
- Depending on the chief complaint, you may choose to perform a focused assessment.
- Focused assessment may be performed on the respiratory system, circulatory system, neurologic system, and neurovascular system. Your patient's pupils can also tell a lot about their health condition.
- Some equipment that you can focus for assessment are pulse oximetry, capnography, blood glucometer and noninvasive blood pressure measurement.
- We finish with reassessment, which is the assessment you do at regular intervals throughout the care. Once every 5 minutes when the patient is unstable, and once every 15 minutes when the patient is stable.

That’s it! We’ve come to the end of the chapter review. With this, you are all set to take the quiz.