

# APCO Institute

## Emergency Medical Dispatch Guidecards

### 9th Edition

#### Chest Pain/Heart Problems

##### Vital Points/Questions

Is the patient breathing normally?  
Is the patient conscious?  
Where in the chest is the pain located?  
Does the patient feel pain anywhere else? Where?  
How long has the patient had chest pain?  
**Sudden Onset:**  
Does the pain change when the person breathes or moves?  
What is the age and gender of the patient?  
Is the patient weak, dizzy, or faint?  
Is the patient nauseated or vomiting?  
Is the patient sweating profusely?  
Is the patient experiencing rapid heart rate with chest pain?  
Does the patient have a history of rapid heart rate?  
Does the patient take nitroglycerin? Any relief?  
Has the patient taken an aspirin after the onset of pain?  
How much did they take?  
Any use of prescription or illegal drugs in the last 48 hours?  
**Information Only/Questions:**  
Does the patient have a history of heart problems?  
Is there a heart swelling or heart attack?  
Does the patient have any other medical history?  
Does the patient have any type of dental device?

##### BLS Priority

**Unconscious, not breathing normally/difficultly breathing**  
Decreased level of consciousness  
Center of chest, upper abdomen  
jaw, shoulder blades, throat, back  
minutes, hours, days, weeks (Jd will be ALS)  
**Painful Breathing**  
Male <25 years of age or Female <40 years of age  
15-40 years of age with any of the following symptoms:  
Weak, dizzy, or faint, short of breath  
Nausea  
Diaphoresis  
Rapid heart rate with chest pain, irregular rapid heart rate  
History of rapid heart rate  
Nitroglycerin more than three times  
Aspirin -- How many  
Small orange pill or large white pill  
Cocaine/crack or other illicit drug use / Prescription drugs such  
as Viagra, Cialis, Levitra, etc. in the last 48 hours

##### Pre-Arrival Instructions

If unconscious and not breathing, go to CPR for the appropriate age group. Trained bystanders may still need instructions. **ASAP IF THEY NEED IT! DONT HESITATE!**  
If unconscious, go to **APPLY AIR CONTROL** instructions.  
Have the patient sit or lie down, whichever is more comfortable and remain calm.  
Does the patient have prescribed nitroglycerin?  
How the patient takes any?  
**IF NO:** Have the patient sit down and take as the physician has directed. Make sure they take no more than 3 doses. If dizzy do not take.  
Patient been instructed by their physician to take an aspirin?  
Is the patient allergic to aspirin or have a bleeding disorder?  
**IF NO:** Have the patient sit down, chew one adult aspirin (325 mg) or 4 baby aspirin (81 mg).  
• Loosen tight clothing.  
• Nothing to eat or drink.  
**If Applicable:**  
• Gather patient's medications and give to responders when they arrive.  
• Put any pets away.  
• Turn the outside light on another wall at the door.  
If anything changes in the patient's condition worsens, please call back.

##### BLS Priority

Male <25 yrs without critical symptoms  
Female <40 yrs without critical symptoms  
Rapid heart rate without critical symptoms

##### BLS Standard

Male <25 yrs or Female <40 yrs with chest wall trauma without critical symptoms

## ON VERSION

### INTRODUCTION

### ALL GALLERS & EMD INTERROGATION

### ALLERGIC REACTION

### BREATHING DIFFICULTY

### CHOKING

### GYNECOLOGY / OB / PREGNANCY

### HEAT / COLD ENVIRONMENTAL

### OVERDOSE / POISONING

### SICK / UNKNOWN

### INCONSCIOUS / UNRESPONSIVE / SYNCOPED

### ASSAULT / SEXUAL ASSAULT

### ELECTROCUTION / LIGHTNING

### FALLS

### MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH (MVC)

### NEUROLOGICAL / HEAD INJURIES

### TRAUMA

### CPR - ADULT

### CPR - INFANT

# Emergency Medical Dispatch Guide Cards

**Tobias Bleicker**

A red circular graphic with a gradient, appearing as a semi-circle or a partial circle, located to the right of the author's name.

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