PTA Protocol Level 1

Brain injury education for non-clinical staff
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At the conclusion of this presentation, a participant will:

- Discuss what PTA means
- State how to identify if a patient is in PTA
- List at least 2 DO’s and 2 DON’Ts when talking to patients in PTA
What is PTA?

- Post-Traumatic Amnesia (PTA) is a state of confusion brought on by physical and chemical changes in the brain after a traumatic brain injury.
How does PTA affect an individual?

- Individuals in PTA may:
  - Not be aware of where they are, the day of the week, why they are in the hospital (orientation)
  - Not be able to remember events that happened recently
  - Have disruptions in their sleep/wake cycle
  - Be easily upset and out of sorts, with fluctuating behaviors
How long does it last?

- The duration of PTA is measured from the date of injury to when they are oriented with day-to-day recall.

- This is often a gradual process.
Is this why patient’s answers are so confusing and odd at times?

YES!

• The patient does not remember the event you’re asking about and may ‘make up’ what they think is a reasonable answer. It could be prompted by a recent headline they saw, or a conversation they overheard.

• The patient is not lying to you. They simply are mixing up different pieces of information (some real, some not).

• There is no intention on their part to deceive you, nor are they “crazy”. This is called confabulation.
Remember these DO’s and DON’Ts

- **Do** introduce yourself; state your name and purpose
- **Do** provide information
- **Do** focus questions on the here and now
- Keep it **simple**

- **Don’t** assume they remember you
- **Don’t** ask the individual to recall information
- **Don’t** quiz
Actions that let staff know a patient is on the PTA protocol

- An email will go to the BIC_Inpatient distribution list
- An orange “dot” will be on their name tag outside of room
- A communication order will be sent in AeCIS
- An orange PTA Protocol sign will be placed in their room, above the bed
- An orange sign will be attached to their wheelchair
- An orange folder/reference log should be with them at all times

- The assigned speech therapist is responsible to INITIATE the PTA protocol, create the individualized reference log, and STOP the protocol when appropriate.
PTA Protocol Sign

Posted above the bed and on their wheelchair

PTA PROTOCOL:

• Introduce yourself on every encounter – state your purpose

• Do not quiz the patient – provide the info using the Reference Log

• Expect the need to repeat information
The Reference Log

PAGE
1) INFO for orientation completed by speech therapist
2) ME page info on patient, to be completed by the neuropsychology/social work team
3) TEAM pictures discipline descriptions
4) CALENDAR Two months
5) Team COMMUNICATION
6) VISITOR List

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Why is the PTA Protocol important?

- Patients may get **distressed** when they don’t know the answer to seemingly obvious questions.
- Patients are often **frustrated** by a barrage of questions which may affect their mood, participation and rapport.
- The patient may not remember what you say, but they may remember how they feel.
VIDEO
Name at least 3 things Elizabeth does to support this patient in PTA.
Remember…

**DO’S & DON’TS**

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- **Keep it simple**

- **Don’t** assume they remember you
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