

Charting and Documentation: Respiratory Rates

Mr. Wilmott, an 86-year-old who lives alone, has been admitted to hospital for treatment. Look at his record and discuss the following questions.

Patient Record	
U/N: 593712	Surname: Wilmott Given names: Ronald DOB: 15.9.1922 Sex: Male
DATE AND TIME	<p>Add signature, printed name, staff category, date and time to all entries MAKE ALL NOTES CONCISE AND RELEVANT Leave no gaps between entries</p>
28.03.12 11:00	<p>New admission to the ward with a diagnosis of poorly managed asthma. Recent URTI treated with antibiotics. Patient still has SOB. RR elevated. For CXR and review by Respiratory Team in am. Started on p/f readings and Pt. ed regarding asthma.</p> <p>(RN) DELANEY</p>

- What is Mr. Wilmott's diagnosis?
- What is the treatment?
- What is happening in the morning?
- What respiratory assessment has he started doing himself?

Match the abbreviations from the Patient Record (1-6) to their meanings (a-f).

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| 1.) URTI | a.) respiratory rate |
| 2.) SOB | b.) peak flow; the most air that is expired |
| 3.) RR | c.) chest X-ray |
| 4.) CXR | d.) patient education |
| 5.) p/f | e.) upper respiratory tract infection |
| 6.) Pt. ed | f.) shortness of breath; difficulty breathing (dyspnea) |

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Mrs. Castle is a 56 year old with a past history of respiratory problems relating to chronic asthma. Read a conversation between two Ward Nurses, Mandy and Rosa and answer the questions after.

Mandy: Hi, Rosa. Do you mind if I go through Mrs. Castles chart with you before I go on a break? There are a few things to do while I'm gone, if you don't mind.

Rosa: That's OK. I don't mind, Mrs. Castle's on hourly resps, isn't she?

Mandy: Yeah, that's right. She's had a history of respiratory problems, and she became quite breathless after her operation yesterday. In any case, we're still doing hourly resps while she's on PCA fentanyl for pain.

Rosa: OK, right. How's her respiratory rate now?

Mandy: you can see her pre op resps at 6 am were eighteen. That's about normal for her. I checked her resps at 7 am before she went to Theatres and they were still eighteen.

Rosa: When did she come back from the operation?

Mandy: She came back a couple of hours ago at 2pm. She was in a lot of pain. She scored seven out of ten on the pain score and she was quite breathless. Her resps went up to 26. I started her on some oxygen at five litres per minute for an hour between 2 and 3 pm because of her breathlessness.

Rosa: OK. Yes, I see. It looks like she's settled down a bit since then. The fentanyl will have kicked in. I can see her pain score at 3 pm was four out of ten. That's better.

Mandy: Yeah, I just did her obs. A few minutes ago at 3pm and her resps were down to 20 so that's better too. I've put the oxygen back to three litres per minute.

Rosa: Ok. I'll keep an eye on her while you're on your tea break.

Mandy: Thanks. I'll be back in half an hour. I'll do her 4 pm obs then.

Rosa: Ok

- How often is Mrs. Castle having her respiratory rate checked?
- How much oxygen was she having when she returned from her operation?
- Why was she given oxygen?
- How long will Mandy be away?

Match the medical terms (1-5) to their meanings (a-e).

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| 1.) Apnoea | a.) the patient has labored breathing or difficulty breathing |
| 2.) Bradypnoea | b.) the patient is not breathing at all |
| 3.) Eupnoea | c.) the respiratory rate is rapid; it has increased to between 20 and 30 breaths/min |
| 4.) Tachypnoea | d.) the patient's breathing is slow rate; the respiratory rate is less than 12 breaths/min |
| 5.) Dyspnoea | e.) the patient is breathing a normal respiratory rate between 12 and 20 breaths/min |

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Read the entry in Mrs. Castle's Patient Record made by Dr. Smith, the Senior House Officer, and answer the questions that follow.

Patient Record	
U/N: 593712	Surname: Castle Given names: Rebecca DOB: 15.9.1922 Sex: Female
DATE AND TIME	<p>Add signature, printed name, staff category, date and time to all entries MAKE ALL NOTES CONCISE AND RELEVANT Leave no gaps between entries</p>
4/02/12	<p>Surgical SHO Smith Pt. is conscious Tachypnoeic 36 RR Afebrile Lung auscultation: decrease AE bilat. Basely No crackles or wheezes Plan CXR in am FBC today please Aspirin to be restarted next week</p> <p style="text-align: right;">F.H. Smith SMITH (bleeper: 8516)</p>

- What do the abbreviations AE and FBC stand for?
- Does Mrs. Castle have a high temperature?
- Are her respirations fast or slow?
- When will she have the blood test done?
- Was she taking aspirin before?