

PTA Protocol
Level 1




Brain injury education for non-clinical staff
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1

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



2

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.

3

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

4

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.

5

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**.

6

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

7

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.

8

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

9

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



10

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

11

VIDEO DON'TS




PLAY VIDEO titled "PTA Don'ts"

12

VIDEO

Name at least 3 things Elizabeth does to support this patient in PTA.



PLAY VIDEO titled "PTA Do's"

13

Remember...

DO'S & DON'TS

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14

Authors & References

- These slides were created by a MossRehab Inpatient Brain Injury Center Work Group comprised of Nicole Bongart, Stephanie Farm, Eileen Fitzpatrick DeSalme, Elizabeth Marcy, Lisa Pinder, Deb Presutti, Amanda Rabinowitz and Mary Ferraro.
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Related Literature:

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15
