Chapter 14
Ongoing Assessment

Overview
- Components of the Ongoing Assessment
- Repeat the Initial Assessment
- Repeat Vital Signs and Focused Assessment
- Check Interventions

Ongoing Assessment
- Every patient (medical or trauma, responsive or unresponsive) receives an ongoing assessment
- The patient’s condition will determine how frequently the ongoing assessment will occur
Components of the Ongoing Assessment

- Repeat the initial assessment
- Repeat vital signs
- Repeat the focused history and physical exam
- Check interventions

Ongoing Assessment Technique

- Repeat the initial assessment
  - Recheck mental status
  - Recheck airway patency
  - Reassess breathing rate and quality
  - Reassess pulse rate and quality
  - Reassess skin color, temperature, condition, and perfusion
  - Reestablish patient priority

Ongoing Assessment Technique

- Reassess vital signs
  - Breathing
  - Skin
  - Pupils
  - Blood pressure
Ongoing Assessment Technique

- Repeat the focused history and physical examination
  - For a stable patient, repeat and record every 15 minutes
  - For an unstable patient, repeat and record at a minimum every 5 minutes
  - If the patient has a life-threatening injury or illness, the reassessment is almost constant

Ongoing Assessment Technique

- Check interventions
  - Ensure adequacy of oxygen delivery/artificial ventilation
  - Ensure management of bleeding
  - Ensure adequacy of other interventions

Summary

- Components of the Ongoing Assessment
- Repeat the Initial Assessment
- Repeat Vital Signs and Focused Assessment
- Check Interventions