

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PATIENT DURING URGENT CARE IN HAITIAN CREOLE

A First-Response Medical Communication Tool

This first-response medical communication tool designed for the Patient-Doctor encounter during Urgent Care is for the healthcare provider who speaks only English but often provides medical care for patients who speak but Haitian Creole. It is meant to help you establish immediate communication while waiting for an interpreter and in no way intends to replace the interpreter, whose role in the delivery of health care remains crucial.

When appropriate, questions are accompanied by some possible answers, with which your patient may agree or disagree by a nod or shake of the head, respectively. The style and content of the questions are designed to minimize the isolation your patient may endure due to the language barrier. **In addition, the Creole translation has been adjusted in some instances in an effort to make the questions sensitive to the patient's culture.** You may read the transliteration, which appears next to the English phrase, or, if appropriate, you may point at the Creole phrase in brackets for your patient to read.

GREETING THE PATIENT

Hello, I am Doctor/Nurse....	Ahlo, mweh seh dohk- <u>teh</u> / Enn-fee- <u>myeh</u> ... [Alo, mwen se doktè/Enfimyè....]
Do you understand my Creole?	Es- <u>keh</u> oo kohn- <u>prahnn</u> <u>kreh-yol</u> mweh? [Eske ou konprann kreyòl mwen?]
Is there someone we should call?	Es- <u>keh</u> geh yohn moon noo kah- <u>pahb</u> reh- <u>leh</u> ? [Eske gen yon moun nou kapab rele?]
Can you write down your name and telephone number?	Es- <u>keh</u> oo kah- <u>pahb</u> eh- <u>kree</u> nohn ah- <u>vehk</u> nee-meh- <u>woh</u> teh-leh- <u>phone</u> oo? [Eske ou kapab ekri non avèk nimewo telefòn ou?]
Could you nod for "yes" and shake your head for "no"?	Es- <u>keh</u> ou kah- <u>pahb</u> soo- <u>keh</u> teht oo poo oo dee "wee" oo- <u>bien</u> "non"? [Eske ou kapab souke tèt ou pou ou di "wi", oubyen "non"?)

GENERAL QUESTIONS (select as needed)

Do you have pain?	Es- <u>keh</u> oo geh doo- <u>leh</u> ?	[Eske ou gen doulè?]
Where?	Kee koh- <u>teh</u> ?	[Ki kote?]
Please point exactly.	Seel- voo- <u>pleh</u> , mohn- <u>treh</u> mweh <u>exac</u> -teh-mah.	[Silvouplè, montre mwen ekzakteman.]
Is the pain here?	Es- <u>keh</u> doo- <u>leh</u> yah lah?	[Eske doulè ya la?]
Did the pain start:	Es- <u>keh</u> doo- <u>leh</u> yah koh-mahn- <u>seh</u> :	[Eske doulè ya kòmanse:]
Today?	Jhoh- <u>dee</u> yah?	[Jodi-a?]
Yesterday?	Yeah?	[Yè?]
Suddenly?	Breess-keh-mah?	[Briskeman?]
Gradually?	Lee vee- <u>nee</u> tee- <u>kahl</u> pah tee- <u>kahl</u> ?	[Li vini tikal pa tikal?]
What makes the pain worse?	<u>Kee-sah</u> kee feh doo- <u>leh</u> yah vee- <u>nee</u> pee mahl?	[Kisa ki fè doulè ya vini pi mal?]
Walking?	Leh oo mah- <u>sheh</u> ?	[Lè ou mache?]
Moving?	Leh oo feh moov- <u>mah</u> ?	[Lè ou fè mouvman?]
Do you have:	Es- <u>keh</u> oo geh:	[Eske ou gen:]
Nausea?	Ahn- <u>vee</u> voh- <u>mee</u> ?	[Anvi vomi?]
Chest pain?	Doo- <u>leh</u> nah lehss-toh- <u>mahk</u> ?	[Doulè nan lestomak?]
Burning?	Lehss-toh- <u>mahk</u> oo ahp boo- <u>leh</u> ?	[Lestomak ou ap boule?]
Dizziness?	Teht oo ahp vee- <u>reh</u> ?	[Tèt ou ap vire?]
Bleeding?	Sehn- <u>yeh</u> ?	[Senyen?]
Trouble breathing?	Pwoh- <u>blehm</u> leh oo rehss-pee- <u>reh</u> ?	[Pwoblèm lè ou respire?]

Have you had illness with:	Es- <u>keh</u> oo geh mah-lah- <u>dee</u> :	[Eske ou gen maladi:]
Asthma?	Oh-preh- <u>syon</u> ?	[Opresyon?]
AIDS/HIV?	See- <u>dah</u> ?	[Sida?]
Ulcer?	Eel- <u>seh</u> ?	[Ilsè?]
Gout?	Goott?	[Gout?]
Arthritis?	Mah-lah- <u>dee</u> nah jhwehn- <u>tee</u> ?	[Maladi nan jwenti?]
Hepatitis?	Eh-pah- <u>teet</u> ?	[Epatit?]
Diabetes?	Seek?	[Sik?]
High blood pressure?	Tahn- <u>syon</u> ?	[Tansyon?]
Heart trouble?	Pwoh- <u>blehm</u> keh?	[Pwoblèm kè?]
Heart attack?	Ah- <u>reh</u> -dee-keh?	[Arèdikè?]
Tuberculosis?	Tee-beh-kee- <u>loz</u> ?	[Tibèkiloz?]
Broken bones?	Zoh kah- <u>seh</u> ?	[Zo kase?]
Pneumonia?	Neh-moh- <u>nee</u> ?	[Nemoni?]
Pancreatitis?	Ahn-flah-mah- <u>syon</u> pahn-kreh- <u>yah</u> ?	[Anflamasyon pankreya?]
Gall Bladder?	Posh fyeh?	[Pòch fyèl]
Night sweats?	Sweh leh- <u>swah</u> ?	[Swe leswa?]
Blood transfusion?	Ah- <u>vek</u> sahn lohtt moon?	[Avèk san lòt moun?]
Thyroid disease?	Mah-lah- <u>dee</u> nah koo?	[Maladi nan kou?]
Epilepsy or seizures?	Kreez?	[Kriz?]

Have you had illnesses with your:	Eskeh ou geh mah-lah- <u>dee</u> :	[Eske ou gen maladi:]
Head?	Teht? [Tèt?]	Blood? Sahn? [San?]
Ears?	Zoh- <u>rey</u> ? [Zorèy?]	Chest? Pwah- <u>treen</u> ? [Pwatrin?]
Eyes?	Zyeh? [Zye?]	Lungs? Poo- <u>mon</u> ? [Poumon?]
Heart?	Keh? [Kè?]	Pancreas? Pahn-kreh- <u>yah</u> ? [Pankreya?]
Liver?	Fwah? [Fwa?]	Intestines? Treep? [Trip?]
Stomach?	Vahnt? [Vant?]	Penis? Pee- <u>jhohn</u> ? [Pijon?]
Bladder?	Veh- <u>see</u> ? [Vesi?]	Uterus? Mah- <u>treess</u> ? [Matris]
Vagina?	Vah- <u>jhahn</u> ? [Vajen?]	Rectum? Troo deh- <u>yeh</u> ? [Trou dèyè?]
Ovaries?	Oh- <u>veh</u> ? [Ovè?]	Muscles? Veey <u>ann</u> koh? [Viann kò?]
Kidneys?	Rehn? [Ren?]	Nerves? Neh? [Nè?]
Bones?	Zoh? [Zo?]	

Can you write down your medicines? Es-keh oo kah-pahb eh-kree meh-dee-kah-mah oo yo? [Eske ou kapab ekri medikaman ou yo?]

Are you allergic to any medicines? Eskeh oo feh ah-leh-jhee ah-vehk oh-ken meh-dee-kah-mah? [Eske ou fè alèji avèk okenn medikaman?]

Penicillin	Peh-nee-see - <u>leen</u>	[Penisilin]
Sulfa	Sulfa	[Sulfa]
Antibiotic	An-tee-bee-yo- <u>teek</u>	[Antibyotik]
Aspirin	Ahss-pee- <u>reen</u>	[Aspirin]

When was your last Tetanus shot? Kee deh-nyeh fwah oo teh prahn vahk-sehn poo teh-tah-nohs? [Ki dènye fwa ou te pran vaksen pou tetanòs?]

Could you be pregnant? Eskeh lee poh-seeb keh oo ahn-sehnt? [Eske li posib ke ou ansent?]

When was your last menstrual period? Kee deh-nyeh fwah oo teh geh reh-g oo? [Ki dènye fwa ou te gen règ ou?]

Have you had an ectopic pregnancy? Eskeh ou jah-meh feh fohss koosh? [Eske ou jamè fè foskouch?]

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: DIALOGUE AND INSTRUCTIONS (select as needed)

May I examine you?	Eskeh mweh kah- <u>pahb</u> ehk-zah-mee- <u>neh</u> oo seel- <u>woo-pleh</u> ? [Eske mwen kapab ekzamine ou silvouplè?]	
Please undress and put on this gown with opening in the back.	Seel- <u>woo-pleh</u> deh-zah- <u>bee-yeh</u> oo, eh- <u>pee</u> meh- <u>teh</u> rahd sah oo- <u>veh</u> deh- <u>yeh</u> . [Silvouplè dezabiye ou, epi mete rad sa-a ouvè dèyè.]	
Very good.	Treh bien.	[Trè byen.]
Please wait.	Reh- <u>teh</u> tahn seel- <u>woo-pleh</u> .	[Rete tann silvouplè.]
I will be back.	Mahp reh- <u>too-neh</u> .	[Map retounen.]
Don't worry.	Pah enn- <u>kyeh-teh</u> oo.	[Pa enkyete ou.]
I will not make you wait long.	Mweh pahp feh oo reh- <u>teh</u> tahn troh lohn- <u>tah</u> . [Mwen pap fè ou rete tann twò lontan.]	
The nurse will come in a few minutes.	Enn- <u>fee-myeh</u> yah ahp vee- <u>nee</u> too-tah- <u>leh</u> . [Enfimyè ya ap vini toutalè.]	
I will be back with an interpreter.	Mahp reh- <u>too-neh</u> ah- <u>vehk</u> yohn enn- <u>teh-preht</u> . [Map retounen avèk yon entèprèt.]	
Would you like some water?	Eskeh oo vleh bweh dloh?	[Eske ou vle bwè dlo?]
PLEASE:	SEEL VOO PLEH:	[SILVOUPLÈ]:
Sit.	Shee- <u>tah</u> dwahtt.	[Chita dwat.]
Stand up.	Kahm- <u>peh</u> .	[Kanpe.]
Don't move.	Pah feh moov- <u>mah</u> .	[Pa fè mouvman.]
Pull.	Rah- <u>leh</u> .	[Rale.]
Push.	Poo- <u>seh</u> .	[Pouse.]
Open your mouth.	Oo- <u>vree</u> boosh oo.	[Ouvri bouch ou.]
Tilt your head back — — like this.	Pan- <u>sheh</u> teht oo deh- <u>yeh</u> . — kohn- <u>sah</u> .	[Panche tèt ou dèyè —] [— konsa.]
Turn your head — — like this.	Vee- <u>reh</u> teht oo — — kohn- <u>sah</u> .	[Vire tèt ou —] [— konsa.]
Lie down on your back .	Koo- <u>sheh</u> soo doh.	[Kouche sou do.]
Lie on your right side.	Koo- <u>sheh</u> soo boh dwahtt oo.	[Kouche sou bò dwat ou.]
Lie on your left side.	Koo- <u>sheh</u> soo boh gohsh oo.	[Kouche sou bò goch ou.]
Lie on your stomach.	Koo- <u>sheh</u> soo vahnt oo.	[Kouche sou vant ou.]
Bring your legs up.	Leh- <u>veh</u> jhahm oo.	[Leve janm ou.]
Bend your knees.	Plee- <u>yeh</u> jheh- <u>noo</u> oo.	[Pliye jenou ou.]
Bend forward.	Pahn- <u>sheh</u> koh-oo.	[Panche kò ou.]
Give me your arm.	Bah mweh brah oo.	[Ban mwen bra ou.]
Squeeze my fingers — — Harder!	Kehn- <u>beh</u> dweht mweh treh foh — — Pee foh!	[Kenbe dwèt mwen trè fò —] [— Pi fò!]
Walk over there — — then walk back.	Mah- <u>sheh</u> ah- <u>leh</u> — — Eh- <u>pee</u> reh- <u>too-neh</u> vee- <u>nee</u> .	[Mache ale —] [— Epi retounen vini.]
Can you do this?	Es- <u>keh</u> oo kah- <u>pahb</u> feh sah?	[Eske ou kapab fè sa-a?]
That's enough.	Sah see- <u>fee</u> .	[Sa sifi.]
Can you feel this?	Es- <u>keh</u> oo sahn- <u>tee</u> sah?	[Eske ou santi sa-a?]
Hold your breath.	Kehn- <u>beh</u> soof oo.	[Kenbe souf ou.]
Breathe like I do.	Rehss- <u>pee-reh</u> tahn- <u>koo</u> mweh.	[Respire tankou mwen.]
Inhale.	Rehss- <u>pee-reh</u> !	[Respire!]
Exhale.	Ehks- <u>pee-reh</u> !	[Ekspire!]
— like this.	— kohn- <u>sah</u> .	[— konsa.]
Take slow, deep breaths.	Rhess- <u>pee-reh</u> dooss- <u>mah</u> .	[Respire dousman.]

Blow as hard as you can. Soo-fléh jheess-kahs-keh oo pa kah-pahb ahn-koh.
[Soufle jiskaske ou pa kapab ankò.]

You're going to feel my finger. Oo prahl sahn-tee dweht mwéh.
[Ou pral santi dwèt mwén.]

I need to examine your anus. Mwéh beh-zweh ehk-zah-mee-neh troo deh-yeh oo.
[Mwén bezwén ekzamine trou dèyè ou.]

This will feel uncomfortable but it shouldn't hurt. Sah pahp kohn-foh-tahb meh lee pahp feh mahl.
[Sa pap konfòtab men li pap fè mal.]

This will hurt. Sah prahl feh mahl.
[Sa pral fè mal.]

FEED-BACK FOR THE PATIENT (select as applicable)

You are fine. Oo tréh bien.
[Ou trè byén.]

You'll begin to feel better indays. Oo ahp koh-mahn-seh sahn-tee oo pee bien nah jhoo.
[Ou ap komanse santi ou pi byén nan...jou.]

You need to stay in the hospital so we can take care of you. Fohk oo reh-teh nah loh-pee-tahl lah poo
noo kah-pahb prahn swéh oo.
[Fòk ou rete nan lopital la pou nou kapab pran swén ou.]

DAYS

Monday	Lehn- <u>dee</u>	[Lendi]	Friday	Vahn-dreh- <u>dee</u>	[Vandredi]
Tuesday	Mah- <u>dee</u>	[Madi]	Saturday	Sahm- <u>dee</u>	[Samdi]
Wednesday	Mek-reh- <u>dee</u>	[Mèkredi]	Sunday	Dee- <u>mansh</u>	[Dimanch]
Thursday	Jheh- <u>dee</u>	[Jedi]			

MONTHS

January	Jhan-vee- <u>yeh</u>	[Janvyè]	July	Jhee- <u>yeh</u>	[Jiyè]
February	Feh-vree- <u>yeh</u>	[Fevryè]	August	Oot	[Out]
March	Mahs	[Mas]	September	Sehp- <u>tahm</u>	[Septahm]
April	Ah- <u>vree</u>	[Avril]	October	Ohk- <u>toh</u>	[Oktòb]
May	Meh	[Me]	November	Noh- <u>vahm</u>	[Novahm]
June	Jhehn	[Jen]	December	Deh- <u>sahm</u>	[Desanm]

NUMBERS

1	Yoon	[Youn]	6	Seess	[Sis]	20	Vehn	[Ven]
2	Deh	[De]	7	Set	[Sèt]	30	Trahnt	[Trant]
3	Twah	[Twa]	8	Weet	[Wit]	40	Kah- <u>rahnt</u>	[Karant]
4	Cat	[Kat]	9	Nehf	[Nèf]	50	Sehn- <u>kahnt</u>	[Senkant]
5	Sink	[Senk]	10	Deess	[Dis]			

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