COMMUNICATING WITH THE PATIENT DURING URGENT CARE IN CANTONESE
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 Cantonese. 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 Cantonese 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 Cantonese characters for your patient to read.

GREETING THE PATIENT
Hello, I ..................Doctor/.............Nurse.
你好，我是 _______醫生/_______護士。

Do you understand my Chinese?
你聽懂我的中文嗎？

Is there someone we should call?
你想打電話通知你的親人嗎？

Can you write down your name and phone #?
請寫下你的姓名和電話號碼。

GENERAL QUESTIONS (select as needed): 

Do you have pain? 
Nay yao tohng mah? 耳朵痛嗎？

Where? 
Been doh tohng?

Please point exactly. 
Tzeng dzee bay ngaoh tai. 請正確的指給我看。

Is the pain here? 
Hi emm hi nee doh tohng? 這個地方痛，對嗎？

Did it start today? 
Gum yaht hoi-tzee tohng geh? 你的痛是今日開始的？

Yesterday? 
Kaahn-yahnt hoi-tzee geh? 昨日開始的？

Suddenly? 
Duht-yeen lay geh? 突然而來的？

Gradually? 
Mahn, mahn lay geh? 慢慢而來的？

What makes the pain worse? 
Joe muht-yeh wooy ling koey tohng dee? 做什麼會使痛增加？

Walking? 
Haahng loh? 步行？

Moving? 
Yook dong? 移動？

Do you have: 

Nay yao moh... 你有。。。 

Nausea? 
Jock ngaoh? 作嘔？

Dizziness? 
Taao one? 頭暈？

Chest pain? 
Sum hau tohng? 胸部痛？

Trouble Breathing? 
Foo cup kwan nahn? 呼吸困難？

Burning? 
La-dzuh la-dzuh? 火燒之感？

Bleeding? 
Laag huet? 流血？

Have you had problems or illnesses with: 

Nay yao moh: 你有下列的病或不舒服嗎?

Broken bones 
Tuehn gwt? 骨折了？

High blood pressure 
Huet ngaht goh? 高血壓？

Gall bladder 
Dahn behng 腸囊

Heart attack 
Sum zhong behng faht jock 心臟病

Heart trouble 
Sum zong behng 愛心病

AIDS 
Oi dzee behng 愛滋病

Gout 
Tohng fuhng 痛風病

Ulcer 
Kwui ygrng 溃瘍
Asthma Haaoo chuen behng 氣喘病
Tuberculosis Fai loh behng 结核病
Hepatitis Gohn yeeem 肝炎
Diabetes Tong liu behng 糖尿病
Thyroid disease Gahp dзонg seen behng 甲狀腺病
Pancretitis Yee zong yeeem 腺炎
Arthritis Gwan dzeeet yeem 閣節炎
Blood transfusion Shu huet 輸血
Pneumonia Fai yeeem 肺炎
Night sweats Yeh hohn 夜汗
Epilepsy/Seizure Yohng deeoо 鈍/癲癇
HIV Oi dzee behng kwuhn 愛滋病圈

Have you had problems or illnesses with your: Nay yao moh yee-hah geh mun-tai...

下列身體哪一部曾有過問題?

Head Tagh 給
Eyes Aahn ting 眼睛
Ears Yee dzai 耳朵
Chest Hoong boh 胸
Heart Sum dзong 肺
Lungs Fai 卵巢
Ovaries Lun chau

Can you write your medicines? Tzeng nay seh-dai nay sik-gun geh yerk?

請寫出你用的藥。

Have you had a bad Nay yee-tzeen sik goh mухt-yeh yerk, yao menhoh geh fahn-ying?
reaction to any 你以前服過什麼藥有不良的反應？
medicine before?

Are you allergic to Nay doey mухt-yeh yerk yao muhn-gum?
you對什麼藥有敏感的呢？
any medicines?

Penicillin Poon nay lurng 青霉素 (盤尼西林)
Aspirin Ah see butt lurng 阿斯匹林

Could you be pregnant? Nay yaaoo-dzooh sun-yen mah?
你可能是懷孕嗎？

When was your last Nay seerng-geeh-yuet geh king-kay hai been-yaht?
menstrual period? 你上個月的經期是什麼日子？

Have you had an ectopic Nay yaaoo-goh, goong-ngo-yahm mah?
pregnancy? 你曾有在子宮外懷孕嗎？

When was your last Nay dzoy-yaaoo yaht-tsee dah poh-sheng-fоhng-kwan dzuhm hai gay-see?
Tetanus shot? 你最後一次打破傷風破傷風是何時？

Physical Examination: Dialogue and Instructions (Select as needed):

May I examine you? Ngoh tohng nay geem-cha sun-tai?

我想替你檢查身體。

Please undress and put on this gown. Tzeng tchoey nay-geh sahm, jerk nee-geen poh?
請脱下你的衣服穿上這件袍。

The opening should be in the back. Poh geh hoi-haaо haaо-been.

袍開口的一邊是應該向後的。

Very good. Ho-ho.

Please wait. Tzeng dung-dung.

I will be back. Ngoh djaaо fahn-lay.

Don’t worry. Emm hoh dahn-sum.

The nurse will come in a few minutes. Woo see djaaо-lay.

I will be back with an interpreter. Ngoh yeew dai goh fahn-yick lay.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please:</th>
<th>Tzeng nay...</th>
<th>請</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sit.</td>
<td>Chor dai.</td>
<td>Hold your breath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't move.</td>
<td>Emm-ho yok.</td>
<td>Breathe like I do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand up.</td>
<td>Kay hay sun.</td>
<td>Open your mouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhale.</td>
<td>Cup hey.</td>
<td>Exhale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Take slow, deep breaths, like mine. | Mahn mahn day sum-foo cup, ho-tzee ngoh gum. |
| Blow as hard as you can. | Dai lick tchoey. |
| Tilt your head back, like this. | Taoo herng hao, ho-tzee ngoh gum. |
| Turn your head to the side. | Daah dzuht goh taao. |

| Lie down on your back.  | Fuhn peng.    | 平躺。         |
| Lie on your right side. | Herng yao-been dah dzuht fuhn. | 躺在右邊。     |
| Lie on your left side.  | Herng jor-been dah dzuht fuhn. | 躺在左邊。     |
| Lie on your stomach.    | Paah hai doh. | 伏臥。        |
| Bring your legs up.     | Sun-djik djek gerk. | 腿伸上來。   |
| Bend your knees.        | What. dzu suht tao. | 屈膝。        |
| Give me your arm.       | Herng ngoh sun-sao. | 把手給我。     |
| Squeeze my fingers.     | Dai lick djah ngoh-geh saoo. | 握緊我的手。大力些。 |
| Harder.                 | Dai lick dee.  |                |
| Walk over there,        | Hahng-heoy goh-been, joy hahng-fahn-lay. | 走到那邊，再走回來。 |
| then walk back.         |                |                |
| I need to put my finger in your rectum. | Ngoh yeeoo jerng saoo-tzee foehng yup nay-geh gohng-moon | 我要將手指放進不你的直腸。 |
Bend forward. Heng tzeen what-sun. 屈身向前。
Push. Toey. 推
Pull. Lie. 拉。

FEEDBACK FOR THE PATIENT (select as applicable)...
You are fine. Nay moh see. 你很好，没事。
You'll begin to feel better in ____ days. Goh _____ yaht nay wooy gok-duck shui-foon dee.
You need to stay in the hospital so we can take care of you. Nay yeoo dao-lieh goo lay.
You need to have emergency surgery. Nay yeoo djeok-hak ho-dough.
We will take good care of you. Ngho-day wooy ho-ho djeew-goo lay.
We need to be thorough and do some tests. Ngho-day yeoo jeeh see-yeem.
This will keep you here: Nay yeoo lao-dai: 你要留在这里
____ hours _______ goh djeong tao ___ 小時
____ days _______ yaht _______ 天

NUMBERS:
1 yat 二 9 gaoh 二
4 say fiu 5 emm 五 6 look 六
7 tsuhk 七 8 baht 八 9 gaoh 九
10 sup 十 20 yee-sup 十十 30 saam-sup 三十
40 say-sup 四十 50 emm-sup 五十

DAYS:
Monday Sing kay yah 1 星期一
Tuesday Sing kay yee 2 星期二
Wednesday Sing kay saam 3 星期三
Thursday Sing kay say 4 星期四

MONTHS:
January yat yeut 1 月
February Yoc yeut 2
March Sum yeut 3
April Say yeut 4
May Emm yeut 五
June Look yeut 六

Tsuhk yeut 七
August Baht yeut 八
September Gaoh yeut 九
October Sup yeut 十
November Sup yaht yeut 十一
December Sup yeet yeut 十二

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