

Examples of Qualifiers and Descriptors

Cardiovascular	Examples of Qualifiers
Chest pain	Location, when it started, how it started, Description: Sharp, dull, pressure, squeezing, non radiating, ache
Angina	Sharp, dull, squeezing, non radiating, radiating to jaw/arm/neck, increases or onset with exertion, palpitations, dyspnoea on exertion
Diaphoresis	Sweats, profuse, drenching
Oedema	Pedal, facial, chronic, localised, new onset
Leg swelling	Unilateral or bilateral oedema
PND – para-nocturnal dyspnoea	Sudden coughing/ SOB at night
Orthopnea	SOB laying flat

Respiratory	Examples of Qualifiers
SOB	With exertion, at rest, at night, worse laying down
Cough	Productive, hacking, painful, smokers, persistent, dry, moist
Wheezing	Due to asthma, hay fever, chronic
Sputum	Green, brown, white, thick, sticky, increase in volume
Haemoptysis	Volume, with cough, new or chronic, frank blood or flecks

GIT	Examples of Qualifiers
Abdo pain	Upper, lower, RUQ/RLQ/LUQ/LLQ/epigastric, flank, sharp, dull, severe, recurrent, intermittent, heart burn, colicky
Nausea	New, constant, waves/intermittent, with movement, dry retching, loss of appetite
Vomiting	# Episodes, recurrent, clear, bloody (haematemesis)
Diarrhoea	# Episodes, multiple, watery, bloody (haematochezia)
Constipation	# Days, chronic, history of the same? Associated obstipation
Stools	Black (malaena), watery, bloody (haematochezia), pebbles

Genitourinary	Examples of Qualifiers
Frequency	Every # minutes
Urgency	? Associated with incontinence
Dysuria	Every time, for # days
Haematuria	Bright red, in urine, when wiping
Discharge	White/green/clear, abnormal
Bleeding	Mid-cycle, associated pain, heavy, passing clots
Incontinence	Urge, stress, new, chronic
Discharge	Color, volume, offensive odor
Last menstrual period	Normal, mid-cycle bleeding, heavy, clots, painful
Lesions	To genitalia ? elsewhere, painful or painless
Testicle pain/swelling	Associated redness, onset ? sudden or gradual

Musculoskeletal	Examples of Qualifiers
Myalgias	Generalised, localised to region of trauma, without trauma
Arthralgias	Chronic, generalised, local, which joints?

Skin	Examples of Qualifiers
Rash	Localised, general, diffuse, itchy, raised, colour
Hives	Itchy, diffuse, location, migration
Lesions	Laceration size, location, active bleeding or bleeding controlled, superficial or deep, jagged, linear or stellate, puncture wound, haemorrhage or haemostasis, active bleeding, abrasions (size and depth and location)

ENT	Examples of Qualifiers
Earache	Dull, L/R sided, popping, pressure, full sensation, ringing
Hearing changes	Muffled, tinnitus, deafness
Congestion	Chest, sinus, head, nasal, green/yellow nasal discharge
Sore throat	Scratchy, dysphasia, muffled voice, associated drooling
Rhinorrhoea	Clear, yellow, green
Epistaxis	Unilateral/bilateral, with/without trauma, constant

Neurological	Examples of Qualifiers
Weakness	Generalised, which limb/area, malaise
Numbness	Hands, feet, arm, face, with or without trauma
Parasthesias	Location, onset, description
Dizziness	With movement, room spinning, associated nausea/visual changes
Seizures	History of them, local or general, multiple, fever associated, duration, injuries sustained
Headache	Location, character, severity, history of trauma/migraines, associated symptoms of nausea, photophobia, fever
Difficulty with speech	Dysarthria, dysphasia, slurred, word salad, slow, stuttering, aphasic
Loss of consciousness	Associated trauma, number episodes, witnessed, duration
Fainting	When standing, from sitting, aura, pre-syncope symptoms
Collapse	Warning symptoms, conscious or unconscious, seizure activity, fainting symptoms prior
Altered mental status/Confusion	Specifics of change e.g. disoriented, wrong words, aphasic. Generalised or specific details only, acute or gradual, history of similar episodes, duration.
Difficulty walking	Staggering, unsteadiness, 1 leg or both
Ataxia	Falling to one side, furniture walking, shuffling gait

Constitutional symptom	Examples of Qualifiers
Fever	Subjective, low grade, exact temp e.g. 37.8
Chills	Shaking, off and on, felt cold
Weight changes	Increase, decrease, intentional or not, no appetite
Change in appetite	Anorexic, decreased, increased
Diaphoresis	Profuse, soaking, cold sweats, night sweats
Swollen lymph glands	Neck, submandibular, axilla, groin, tender or painless
Limb swelling	Arm or leg

Eyes	Examples of Qualifiers
Vision changes	Blurred, double, seeing lights, flashers and floaters, scintillating scotoma
Discharge	Clear, yellow, white, matted, crusty

Psych	Examples of Qualifiers
Anxiety	Chronic, panic attacks, scared, stressed, onset
Depression	Chronic, recurrent, new post natal, due to current events
Hallucinations	Auditory, visual
Suicidal	Intent, plan, means, previous attempts

Haematological	Examples of Qualifiers
Bleeding	Haemophilia, easy bleeding, free bleeding, easy bruising
Anaemia	Hx of same, chronic, during pregnancy. Evidence of blood loss.
Clotting problems	In legs, hx of same, DVT/PE