



Title Alert Status	Date 06/25/2019
CDE Number M-1906011	CDE Credit Hours 0.5 hrs

Have you ever heard any of these responses (or similar) to "Is s/he completely alert (responding appropriately)?"...

1. Is he **completely alert** (responding appropriately)?

Yes
No
Unknown



This question can be tricky to some. Did you know all but **SIX** of the medical protocols address this question? Many times we do not get a clear "Yes" or "No" answer. Remember the importance of this question is to determine further consciousness level from "Is s/he awake?"

This question can also effect patient care. For example airway maintenance or the administration of aspirin. The answer to the alert question will determine a different level of response from the determinate code (DELTA or CHARLIE levels).

To make it simple, Brett Patterson (IAED Medical Council of Standards Chair) stated ", And if you don't get a 'yes' answer, it's 'no' by default. That way you're being risk averse."



Keep in mind a few standards that would go along with this specific question.

- Universal Standard 2 – Parenthetical Clarifier
 - "Parenthetical Clarifiers are words used in protocol questions and instructions that are contained within parentheses or "brackets" ()." "
 - "A parenthetical clarifier is only to be used after providing the original question or instruction as written and pausing for a reasonable time to allow the caller to respond"
 - Example: "Is s/he completely alert (responding appropriately)?" ask, "Is s/he responding appropriately?"
- Universal Standard 3 – Acceptable Clarification or Enhancements
 - "The calltaker may provide an acceptable clarification or enhancement to any protocol question or instruction. Once the scripted protocol question or instruction has been read as written, the calltaker may rephrase the question or instruction using language equivalent in meaning to the script in the following situations: The calltaker does not understand the scripted protocol question or instruction, The caller answer ambiguously, The caller doesn't answer after a reasonable period of time."
 - Example: "I understand you said she was out of it, but I need to confirm- Is she alert (responding appropriately)?"

Sources:

"Completely Alert?" by Audrey Fraizer (The Journal: iaedjournal.org)

ED-Q Performance Standards 10.0.2 Edition



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