



# *ExamFacts*

## **Study Guide Decision Making**

### **Systematic Approach to Decision Making**

As you are evaluating the simulation think

- **Acute Situation** (is it emergent)
- **Chronic Situation** (is the patient stable)
- **Conservative Approach** (beware that some choices are more harm than good)

**Next ask yourself the 3 questions after reviewing all gathered information.**

*Keep in mind the Acute (critical) patient will need you to go big whereas the chronic patient start with smaller less aggressive choices.*

**What Condition Do You Suspect?**

**What is the Primary Problem?**

**What Should You Recommend?**

This thinking will help direct your decision making. There will be several correct looking answers to decide to go back to acute vs chronic approach.

Another tip is to think to yourself how bad is the “problem” I am trying to fix? Example Ventilation problem there is a huge difference between PaCO<sub>2</sub> 50 and PaCO<sub>2</sub> 68 thus you will choose a smaller fix for the first and larger for the second.

*Always make sure you understand if the scenario is acute or chronic. This is where most people lose the most points by making an aggressive decision on a chronic patient or a conservative decision on an acute patient.*

If the patient is acute or critical make that aggressive decision to fix that patient ASAP!

If the patient is chronic or stable, make a small or mild decision.

*Word of caution: Continue to re-evaluate constantly as the CSE will always have some critical patients who then stabilize as well as some stable chronic patients who then will crash and become critical.*

Notes:

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*Take notes here on the (decisions) for the various problems on the CSE.*

## Problems

- **Oxygenation**
  
- **Ventilation**
  
- **Airway Obstruction**
  
  
- **Poor Compliance**
  
  
- **Uncontrolled condition**

### **ExamFacts Exam taking tips:**

Decision making is where most students struggle. To prevent this, start following the above pattern of thinking with each decision you must make. This will enable you to make concise choices on the CSE and not to lose points for detrimental decisions.

The greatest risk to not passing the CSE is to make a detrimental decision. The CSE can take significant points away from your score for these decisions. Try to practice picking out the “detrimental” or “harmful” answer in each quiz question so that you may learn to avoid that response.

Notes:

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