

Pharmacy Mnemonics: WWHAM, ASMETHOD, ENCORE, SIT DOWN SIR and I ESCAPED CPR

Pharmacists sometimes use a mnemonic to gather information to help them diagnose a patient's presenting complaint or assess the suitability of a drug for a patient. Caution should be exercised when using a mnemonic since it may not capture all the essential information needed before diagnosing the patient's presenting complaint or concluding whether a drug therapy is appropriate for the patient. Further questioning may be needed based on the patient's responses or what is discovered when assessing the suitability of a drug therapy for the patient. Listed below are some pharmacy mnemonics used when responding to symptoms and determining the appropriateness of a medication for a patient.

WWHAM

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- W** Who is the patient
 - W** What are the symptoms
 - H** How long have the symptoms been present
 - A** Action taken
 - M** Medication being taken
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ASMETHOD

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- A** Age/appearance
 - S** Self or someone else
 - M** Medication
 - E** Extra medicines
 - T** Time persisting
 - H** History
 - O** Other symptoms
 - D** Danger symptoms
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ENCORE

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- E** Explore
 - N** No medication
 - C** Care
 - O** Observe
 - R** Refer
 - E** Explain
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SIT DOWN SIR

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- S** Site or location of a sign/symptom
 - I** Intensity or severity
 - T** Type or nature
 - D** Duration
 - O** Onset
 - W** With (other symptoms)
 - N** Annoyed or aggravated by
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S Spread or radiation
I Incidence or frequency
R Relieved by

I ESCAPED CPR

I Interactions
E Efficacy
S Side effects
C Contraindications
A Allergies
P Pregnancy
E Elimination
D Dose
C Compliance
P Purpose
R Route

Source: Reference 1

Reference

1. Bruno CB, Ip E, Shah B, Linn WD. A Mnemonic for Pharmacy Students to Use in Pharmacotherapy Assessment. *AJPE*. 2012;76 (1) Article 16.