

Clinical Correlations

Stable vs Unstable

Reflect on a patient experience and report on whether you believe the patient was stable or unstable. **Answer the questions below.**

Circle the one that most closely represents your patient.

Stable

Stable patients are those who are not expected to deteriorate because of their complaint or condition.

Unstable

Unstable patients are those who have deteriorated or have the potential to deteriorate to a significantly worse state or condition. This may be a harmful change in vital signs, sudden decline in mental status, imminent harm from their condition (e.g. cardiac arrest after chest pain, herniation after head injury), or other state of decline.

Basic Patient Information

Patient Age & Sex	Chief Complaint	Type of Clinical Encounter (hospital or field)	Notes

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Explain why you believe your patient was stable or unstable

(Complete all that apply – justify your decision!)

Finding	Reason
Patient Complaint	
Vital Signs (pulse, respirations, skin, BP, pulse pressure, SpO2, pupils)	
Mental Status	
Physical Exam Findings	
History	
Other	