**Situation**

I am calling about <patient name and location>.  
The patient’s code status is <code status>.  
The problem I am calling about is ____________________________.

I am afraid the patient is going to arrest.

I have just assessed the patient personally:

Vital signs are:  Blood pressure ____/_____, Pulse _____, Respiration_____ and temperature ______

I am concerned about the:

- Blood pressure because it is over 200 or less than 100 or 30 mmHg below usual
- Pulse because it is over 140 or less than 50
- Respiration because it is less than 5 or over 40.
- Temperature because it is less than 96 or over 104.

**Background**

The patient’s mental status is:

- Alert and oriented to person place and time.
- Confused and cooperative or non-cooperative
- Agitated or combative
- Lethargic but conversant and able to swallow
- Stuporous and not talking clearly and possibly not able to swallow
- Comatose.  Eyes closed.  Not responding to stimulation.

The skin is:

- Warm and dry
- Pale
- Mottled
- Diaphoretic
- Extremities are cold
- Extremities are warm

The patient is not or is on oxygen.

- The patient has been on _______ (l/min) or (%) oxygen for ______ minutes (hours)
- The oximeter is reading _______%
- The oximeter does not detect a good pulse and is giving erratic readings.

**Assessment**

This is what I think the problem is:  <say what you think is the problem>

The problem seems to be cardiac infection neurologic respiratory _____

I am not sure what the problem is but the patient is deteriorating.

The patient seems to be unstable and may get worse, we need to do something.

**Recommendation**

I suggest or request that you <say what you would like to see done>:

- transfer the patient to critical care
- come to see the patient at this time.
- Talk to the patient or family about code status.
- Ask the on-call family practice resident to see the patient now.
- Ask for a consultant to see the patient now.

Are any tests needed:

- Do you need any tests like CXR, ABG, EKG, CBC, or BMP?
- Others?

If a change in treatment is ordered then ask:

- How often do you want vital signs?
- How long do you expect this problem will last?
- If the patient does not get better when would you want us to call again?

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