
Review of Systems (ROS)

ROS is an inventory of body systems obtained by asking a series of questions to identify signs and/or symptoms the patient may be experiencing or has experienced. These systems are recognized for ROS purposes:

- ❖ Constitutional Symptoms (for example, fever, weight loss)
- ❖ Eyes
- ❖ Ears, nose, mouth, throat
- ❖ Cardiovascular
- ❖ Respiratory
- ❖ Gastrointestinal
- ❖ Genitourinary
- ❖ Musculoskeletal
- ❖ Integumentary (skin and/or breast)
- ❖ Neurological
- ❖ Psychiatric
- ❖ Endocrine
- ❖ Hematologic/lymphatic
- ❖ Allergic/immunologic



The three types of ROS are problem pertinent, extended, and complete.

A **problem pertinent ROS** inquires about the system directly related to the problem identified in the HPI.

In this example, one system – the ear – is reviewed:

- ❖ CC: Earache.
- ❖ ROS: Positive for left ear pain. Denies dizziness, tinnitus, fullness, or headache.

An **extended ROS** inquires about the system directly related to the problem(s) identified in the HPI and a limited number (two to nine) of additional systems.

In this example, two systems – cardiovascular and respiratory – are reviewed:

- ❖ CC: Follow-up visit in office after cardiac catheterization. Patient states “I feel great.”
- ❖ ROS: Patient states he feels great and denies chest pain, syncope, palpitations, and shortness of breath. Relates occasional unilateral, asymptomatic edema of left leg.

A **complete ROS** inquires about the system(s) directly related to the problem(s) identified in the HPI plus all additional (minimum of ten) organ systems. You must individually document those systems with positive or pertinent negative responses. For the remaining systems, a notation indicating all other systems are negative is permissible. In the absence of such a notation, you must individually document at least ten systems.

Genitourinary Examination

System/Body Area	Elements of Examination
Constitutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement of any three of the following seven vital signs: 1) sitting or standing blood pressure, 2) supine blood pressure, 3) pulse rate and regularity, 4) respiration, 5) temperature, 6) height, 7) weight (May be measured and recorded by ancillary staff) • General appearance of patient (eg, development, nutrition, body habitus, deformities, attention to grooming)
Head and Face	
Eyes	
Ears, Nose, Mouth and Throat	
Neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of neck (eg, masses, overall appearance, symmetry, tracheal position, crepitus) • Examination of thyroid (eg, enlargement, tenderness, mass)
Respiratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of respiratory effort (eg, intercostal retractions, use of accessory muscles, diaphragmatic movement) • Auscultation of lungs (eg, breath sounds, adventitious sounds, rubs)
Cardiovascular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auscultation of heart with notation of abnormal sounds and murmurs • Examination of peripheral vascular system by observation (eg, swelling, varicosities) and palpation (e.g. pulses, temperature, edema, tenderness)
Chest (Breasts)	[See genitourinary (female)]
Gastrointestinal (Abdomen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of abdomen with notation of presence of masses or tenderness • Examination for presence or absence of hernia • Examination of liver and spleen • Obtain stool sample for occult blood when indicated

System/Body Area	Elements of Examination
Genitourinary	<p>MALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of anus and perineum <p>Examination (with or without specimen collection for smears and cultures) of genitalia including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrotum (eg, lesions, cysts, rashes) • Epididymides (eg, size, symmetry, masses) • Testes (eg, size, symmetry, masses) • Urethral meatus (eg, size, location, lesions, discharge) • Penis (eg, lesions, presence or absence of foreskin, foreskin retractability, plaque, masses, scarring, deformities) <p>Digital rectal examination including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prostate gland (eg, size, symmetry, nodularity, tenderness) • Seminal vesicles (eg, symmetry, tenderness, masses, enlargement) • Sphincter tone, presence of hemorrhoids, rectal masses

System/Body Area	Elements of Examination
Genitourinary (Cont'd)	<p>FEMALE:</p> <p>Includes at least seven of the following eleven elements identified by bullets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection and palpation of breasts (eg, masses or lumps, tenderness, symmetry, nipple discharge) • Digital rectal examination including sphincter tone, presence of hemorrhoids, rectal masses <p>Pelvic examination (with or without specimen collection for smears and cultures) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External genitalia (eg, general appearance, hair distribution, lesions) • Urethral meatus (eg, size, location, lesions, prolapse) • Urethra (eg, masses, tenderness, scarring) • Bladder (eg, fullness, masses, tenderness) • Vagina (eg, general appearance, estrogen effect, discharge, lesions, pelvic support, cystocele, rectocele) • Cervix (eg, general appearance, lesions, discharge) • Uterus (eg, size, contour, position, mobility, tenderness, consistency, descent or support) • Adnexa/parametria (eg, masses, tenderness, organomegaly, nodularity) • Anus and perineum
Lymphatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palpation of lymph nodes in neck, axillae, groin and/or other location
Musculoskeletal	
Extremities	
Skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection and/or palpation of skin and subcutaneous tissue (eg, rashes, lesions, ulcers)
Neurological/ Psychiatric	<p>Brief assessment of mental status including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation (eg, time, place and person) and • Mood and affect (eg, depression, anxiety, agitation)

	Content and Documentation Requirements
<u>Level of Exam</u>	<u>Perform and Document:</u>
Problem Focused	One to five elements identified by a bullet.
Expanded Problem Focused	At least six elements identified by a bullet.
Detailed	At least twelve elements identified by a bullet.
Comprehensive	Perform all elements identified by a bullet; document every element in each box with a shaded border and at least one element in each box with an unshaded border.