

# Military Acute Concussion Evaluation 2 (MACE 2): Revision Update and Tutorial

Training current as of March 2019



# Learning Objectives



At the conclusion of this training, participants will be able to:

- Distinguish high level changes in the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation 2 (MACE 2) including specific updates and evidence to support:
  - Red flags
    - Structural brain injury detection device
  - History questions
  - Expanded assessment by the addition of the Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening (VOMS), cervicogenic symptoms and enhanced balance assessment
- Show how MACE 2 improves the current standard of care for traumatic brain injury (TBI) management.

# Key Changes



## Concussion screening:

- Red flags added indicating when to stop the MACE 2 and immediately consult higher level of care and consider urgent evacuation
- New observable signs checklist added
- Symptoms checklist moved to screening section
- More detailed history and follow-up instructions

Neurologic exam: expanded speech and balance testing

Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening (VOMS): added

Updated diagnostic codes

# Card Features



- MACE 2 card design easier to use:
  - **Black text → action**
  - Gray text → Key questions (helpful hints & assessment tips - typically appear on the right side of the card)
  - *Italics text → Cue to read instructions exactly as written*
  - Check boxes ☐
    - New check boxes replaced bullets to ensure attention and action

## A. Record the event as described by the service member or witness.

Use open-ended questions to get as much detail as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Key questions:

- ☐ Can you tell me what you remember?
- ☐ What happened?
- ☐ Who were you last with?

## B. Observable Signs

At the time of injury were any of these observable signs witnessed?

### Visual clues that suggest a possible concussion include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lying motionless on the ground   | <input type="checkbox"/> Balance difficulties, stumbling, or slow labored movements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slow to get up after a direct or indirect blow to the head                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Facial injury after head trauma                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disorientation, confusion, or an inability to respond appropriately to questions | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative for all observable signs                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blank or vacant look   |   |

### Trial 1 script: Read the script exactly as written.

- "I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back to me as many words as you can remember, in any order."

### Trials 2 and 3 script: Read the script exactly as written.

- "I am going to repeat that list again. Repeat back to me as many words as you can remember, in any order, even if you said them before."

# How to Administer the MACE 2



- MACE 2 is most effective when used as close to the time of injury as possible. The MACE 2 may be repeated to evaluate recovery
- Administer in sequence
- Use scripts when provided
- Use in conjunction with clinical judgment, the Concussion Management Tool (CMT) and clinical recommendations
- Factors such as sleep deprivation, medications, or pain may affect MACE 2 results

# CONDUCTING CONCUSSION SCREENING



**Patient  
Demographics**

**Identify  
Red Flags**

**Concussion  
Screening**

**MACE 2 is to be used as close to time of injury as possible.**

# Concussion Screening



- Red Flags
- Concussion Screening
  - Description of incident (includes new observable signs list)
  - Alteration of conscious or memory
  - Symptoms
  - History
- Screening Results
  - Service Member (SM) Instructions

# Identify Red Flags



**New Red Flag:** Abnormal result from structural brain injury detection device (if available)

## RED FLAGS

Evaluate for red flags in patients with Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) 13-15.

- ❑ Deteriorating level of consciousness
- ❑ Double vision
- ❑ Increased restlessness, combative or agitated behavior
- ❑ Repeat vomiting
- ❑ Results from a structural brain injury detection device (if available)
- ❑ Seizures
- ❑ Weakness or tingling in arms or legs
- ❑ Severe or worsening headache

**Defer MACE 2 if any red flags are present. Immediately consult higher level of care and consider urgent evacuation according to evacuation precedence/Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC).**

- ❑ **Negative for all red flags**  
Continue MACE 2, and observe for red flags throughout evaluation.



# Identifying Concussion

- Concussion screening should determine:
  - If emergent care should be provided to the SM
  - If the SM meets Department of Defense (DoD) concussion criteria



DVIDS photo by SSgt Dana Cable

# Concussion Screening

## 1. Description of Incident

- Complete this section to determine if there was both an injury event and an alteration of consciousness (AOC)
- Establish details of the latest incident, including:
  - A. Record the event as described by the SM or witness.
  - B. Record observable signs.
  - C. Record the type of event.
  - D. Was there a blow or jolt to the head?
- Use “Key Questions” to get as much detail as possible



**MACE 2 - Military Acute Concussion Evaluation**

**MILITARY ACUTE CONCUSSION SCREENING**

Complete this section to determine if there was an injury event AND an alteration of consciousness or memory.

**1. Description of Incident**

**A. Record the event as described by the service member or witness.**

Use open-ended questions to get as much detail as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Key questions:**

- Can you tell me what you remember?
- What happened?
- Who were you last with?

**B. Observable Signs**

At the time of injury were any of these observable signs witnessed?

**Visual clues that suggest a possible concussion include:**

- Lying motionless on the ground
- Slow to get up after a direct or indirect blow to the head
- Disorientation, confusion, or an inability to respond appropriately to questions
- Blank or vacant look
- Balance difficulties, stumbling, or slow labored movements
- Facial injury after head trauma
- Negative for all observable signs

**C. Record the type of event.**

Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Blunt object	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot wound
<input type="checkbox"/> Fall	<input type="checkbox"/> Assault	<input type="checkbox"/> Explosion/blast
<input type="checkbox"/> Fragment	<input type="checkbox"/> Motor vehicle crash	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

**D. Was there a blow or jolt to the head?**

- Did your head hit any objects?
- Did any objects strike your head?
- Did you feel a blast wave? (A blast wave that is felt striking the body or head is considered a blow to the head.)
- Did you have a head acceleration or deceleration?

☐ YES    ☐ NO    ☐ UNKNOWN

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# Concussion Screening

## 2. Alteration of Consciousness or Memory



- A. Was there alteration of consciousness (AOC)?\*
- B. Was there loss of consciousness (LOC)?\*
- C. Was there post-traumatic amnesia (PTA)?\*
- D. Was an AOC/LOC/PTA witnessed or observed?

**Reminder:** Use the key questions to ensure the SM provides yes or no answers.

**\* If the SM responds "yes" ask how long they were affected (seconds, minutes)**

### 2. Alteration of Consciousness or Memory

#### A. Was there alteration of consciousness (AOC)?

AOC is temporary confusion or "having your bell rung."

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_ seconds  
\_\_\_\_\_ minutes

☐ UNKNOWN

#### Key questions:

- ☐ Were you dazed, confused, or did you "see stars" immediately after the event?
- ☐ Did you feel like you were in a fog, slowed down, or "something was not right"?

#### B. Was there loss of consciousness (LOC)?

LOC is temporarily passing out or blacking out.

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_ seconds  
\_\_\_\_\_ minutes

☐ UNKNOWN

#### Key questions:

- ☐ Did you pass out or black out?
- ☐ Is there a period of time you cannot account for?

#### C. Was there any post traumatic amnesia (PTA)?

PTA is a problem remembering part or all of the injury events.

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_ seconds  
\_\_\_\_\_ minutes

☐ UNKNOWN

#### Key questions:

- ☐ Is there a period of time you cannot account for?
- ☐ What is the last thing you remember before the event?
- ☐ What is the first thing you remember after the event?

#### D. Was the AOC, LOC or PTA witnessed?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_ seconds  
\_\_\_\_\_ minutes

☐ UNKNOWN

#### Tips for assessment:

- ☐ Ask witness to verify AOC, LOC or PTA and estimate duration.

# Concussion Screening

## 3. Symptoms



Screens for common concussion symptoms:

- Read list of symptoms to the SM
- Check the box if they answer **“yes”** (symptoms are either present or not)
- Check “Negative for all symptoms” if no symptoms are present

### 3. Symptoms

Common symptoms after a concussion are listed below. For this event, check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headache         | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty concentrating         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness        | <input type="checkbox"/> Irritability                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memory problems  | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual disturbances              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balance problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Ringing in the ears              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea/vomiting  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Negative for all symptoms</b> |

# Concussion Screening

## 4. History



Ask the SM if they had a concussion during the last 12 months, had headaches prior to the injury and if they have been diagnosed with depression, anxiety or another behavior disorder.

- The answer to question 4.A impacts minimum mandatory recovery time and overall rest and recovery time.

### 4. History

A. During the past 12 months, were you diagnosed with a concussion, not counting this event?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_

☐ UNKNOWN

B. History of diagnosed/treated headache disorder or migraine.

☐ YES ☐ NO

C. History of depression, anxiety, or other behavioral health concerns.

☐ YES ☐ NO



# Concussion Screening Results



## Positive concussion criteria:

- A blow or jolt to the head **1D** and
- If the patient experienced any one of these conditions: (answered Yes)
  - An alteration of consciousness (AOC) **2A**
  - A loss of consciousness (LOC) **2B**
  - Post traumatic amnesia (PTA) **2C**
  - The patient's AOC/LOC/PTA was observed by someone at the scene of the injury event or during the screen **2D**

### CONCUSSION SCREENING RESULTS (Possible Concussion?)

Was there a blow or jolt to the head (**1D**)  
**AND**  
ANY alteration of consciousness or memory? (**2A, 2B, 2C, or 2D**)

**YES** (to both)



#### POSITIVE CONCUSSION SCREEN:

1. **Continue** MACE 2.
2. Complete evaluation before prescribing rest.
3. Communicate findings to line leadership.
4. Document and code findings in electronic health record (EHR).

**NO** (to either  
or both)



#### NEGATIVE CONCUSSION SCREEN:

1. **Stop** MACE 2.
2. Initiate 24 hour-rest period, if deployed. During rest, avoid activities that worsen symptoms. Follow up with the service member after rest period per concussion management tool (CMT).
3. Communicate findings to line leadership.
4. Document and code findings in electronic health record (EHR).

# Practice Activity 1



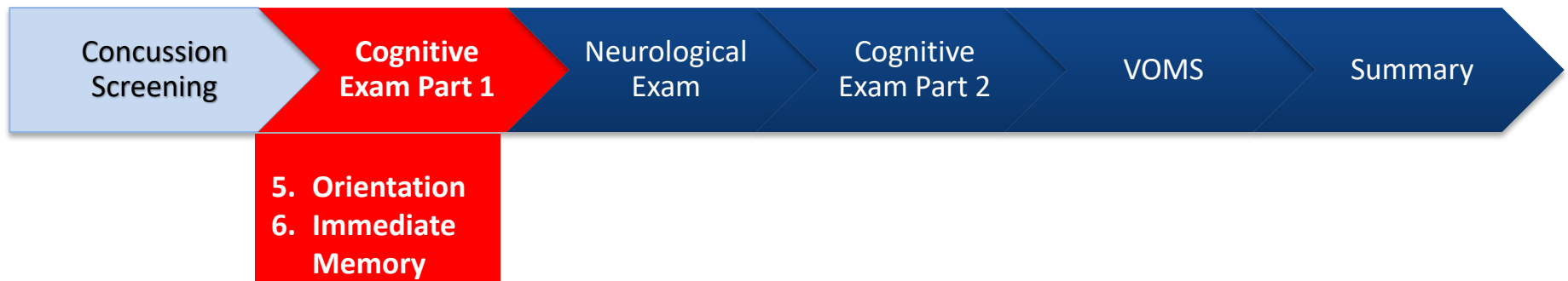
Please refer to workbook

Red Flags

Concussion Screening:

- Description of Incident
- Observable Signs
- Alteration of Consciousness or Memory
- Symptoms
- History
- Screen Results

# CONDUCTING COGNITIVE EXAM





# Cognitive Exam

## 5. Orientation



- The first part of the cognitive exam assesses orientation (i.e. how aware the SM is of the time, where they are, and who they are).
- Words in *italics* are said exactly as written.
- Score a point for each correct answer; maximum score is **5**.
- This cognitive exam is most reliable within 12 hours of injury.

### 5. Orientation

Score one point for each correct response.

Ask This Question	Incorrect	Correct
"What month is this?"	0	1
"What is the date or day of the month?"	0	1
"What day of the week is it?"	0	1
"What year is it?"	0	1
"What time do you think it is?"	0	1

Correct response must be within one hour of actual time.

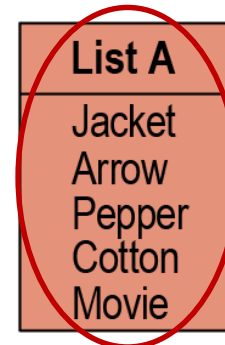
**ORIENTATION TOTAL SCORE**

5

# Cognitive Exam

## 6. Immediate Memory

- The second part of the cognitive exam tests immediate memory: The ability to remember a small amount of information over a few seconds/minutes.
- Example:
  - Select a word list
  - Use the same word list (matching color and letter) for the remainder of the MACE 2



Immediate Memory Alternate Word Lists				
List B	List C	List D	List E	List F
Dollar	Finger	Baby	Candle	Elbow
Honey	Penny	Monkey	Paper	Apple
Mirror	Blanket	Perfume	Sugar	Carpet
Saddle	Lemon	Sunset	Sandwich	Saddle
Anchor	Insect	Iron	Wagon	Bubble

# Cognitive Exam

## 6. Immediate Memory (continued)



- Read the script as written in immediate memory section.
- Three trials are required, even if all answers are correct in Trial 1 and 2.
- Score a point for each correct word recalled; the maximum score is **15**.
- Read the words at a rate of one word per second.

### 6. Immediate Memory

Choose one list (A-F below) and use that list for the remainder of the MACE 2.

Read the script for each trial and then read all five words. Circle the response for each word for each trial. Repeat the trial three times, even if the service member scores perfectly on any of the trials.

**Trial 1 script:** Read the script exactly as written.

- *"I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back to me as many words as you can remember, in any order."*

**Trials 2 and 3 script:** Read the script exactly as written.

- *"I am going to repeat that list again. Repeat back to me as many words as you can remember, in any order, even if you said them before."*

	Trial 1		Trial 2		Trial 3	
List A	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Jacket	0	1	0	1	0	1
Arrow	0	1	0	1	0	1
Pepper	0	1	0	1	0	1
Cotton	0	1	0	1	0	1
Movie	0	1	0	1	0	1

**IMMEDIATE MEMORY TOTAL SCORE**

15

Immediate Memory Alternate Word Lists

List B	List C	List D	List E	List F
Dollar	Finger	Baby	Candle	Elbow
Honey	Penny	Monkey	Paper	Apple
Mirror	Blanket	Perfume	Sugar	Carpet
Saddle	Lemon	Sunset	Sandwich	Saddle
Anchor	Insect	Iron	Wagon	Bubble

# Practice Activity 2

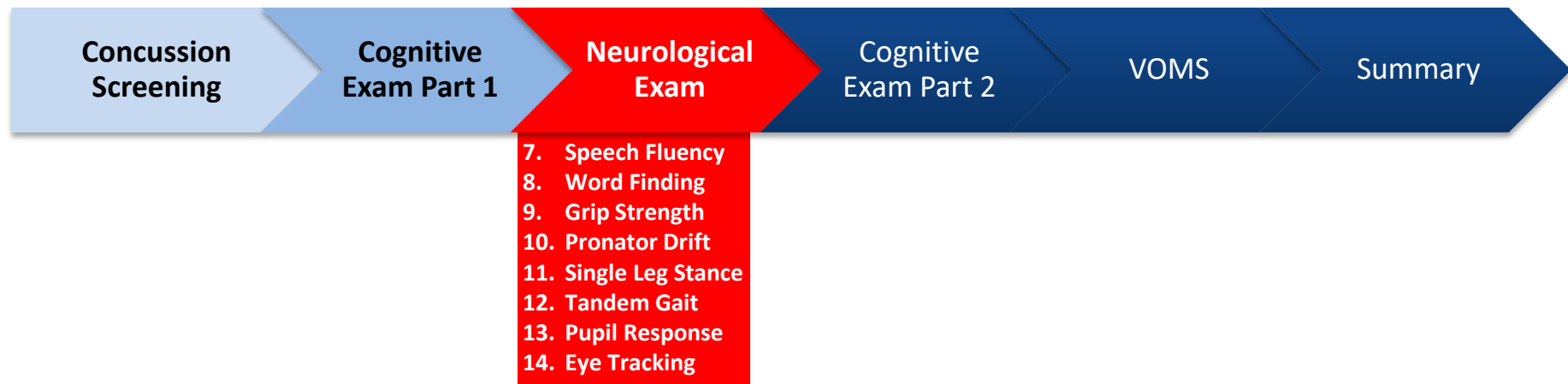


Please refer to the workbook

Cognitive Exam (part 1):

- Orientation
- Immediate Memory

# CONDUCTING NEUROLOGICAL TESTS



# Neurological Exam

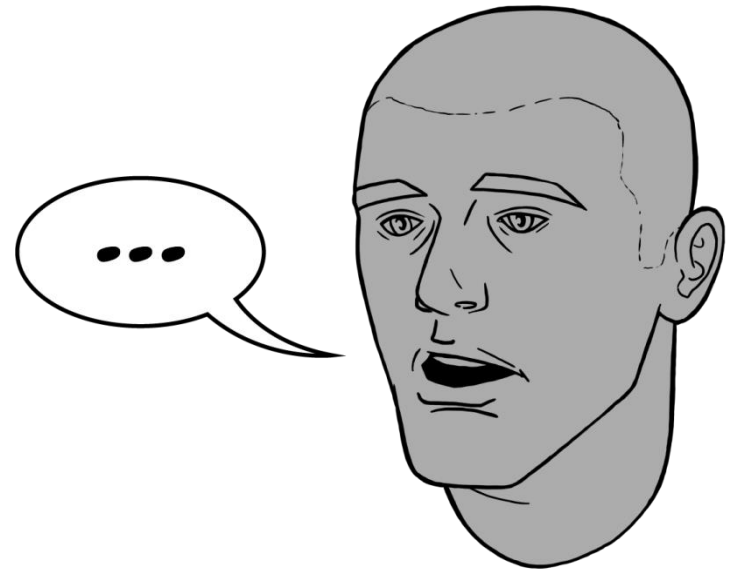
- The neurological exam tests overall sensory and motor functions. It is placed in the middle of the cognitive exam to allow time to pass to test delayed recall accurately. The exam consists of:
  - **Speech Fluency**
  - **Word Finding**
  - **Grip Strength**
  - **Pronator Drift**
  - **Single Leg Stance**
  - **Tandem Gait**
  - **Pupil Response**
  - **Eye Tracking**

MACE 2 - Military Acute Concussion Evaluation	
NEUROLOGICAL EXAM	
7. Speech Fluency <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	<b>MACE 2 - Military Acute Concussion Evaluation</b> <b>NEUROLOGICAL EXAM - Continued</b>  12. Tandem Gait <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal <div>□ Remove shoes if possible. Have service member take six steps one foot in front of the other, heel-to-toe, with arms at side - Stumbling or shifting feet is abnormal.</div>
8. Word Finding <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
9. Grip Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
10. Pronator Drift <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
11. Single Leg Stance <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
	13. Pupil Response <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal <div>□ Pupils should be round, equal in size and briskly constrict to a direct, bright light. - Unequal pupil size, dilation or constriction delay is abnormal.</div>
	14. Eye Tracking <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal <div>□ Both eyes should smoothly track your finger side-to-side and up and down. - Unequal, irregular or delayed eye tracking is abnormal.</div>
<b>NEUROLOGICAL EXAM RESULTS (Questions 7-14)</b> <div><input type="checkbox"/> All Normal      <input type="checkbox"/> Any Abnormal</div>	
<b>COGNITIVE EXAM</b> 15. Concentration A. Reverse Digits Read the script and begin the trial by reading the first string of numbers in Trial 1. <b>Circle the response for each string.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ If correct on string length of Trial 1, proceed to the next longer string length in the same column.</li><li>■ If incorrect on string length of Trial 1, move to the same string length of Trial 2.</li><li>■ If incorrect on both string lengths in Trials 1 and 2, <b>STOP</b> and record score as zero for that string length. Record total score as sum of previous correct trials.</li></ul>	
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# Neurological Exam -

## 7. Speech Fluency

- Note abnormal speech during conversation.
- During open-ended questions, listen for pauses or unnatural breaks in speech.
- Stuttering or struggling to speak is abnormal.



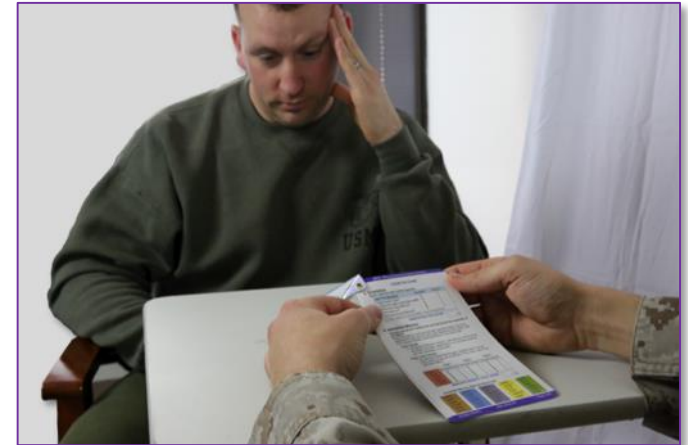
DVBIC image by Kori Zick

# Neurological Exam -

## 8. Word Finding

Assess word finding difficulties:

- Does service member have trouble coming up with the name of a common object?
- Ask the SM to repeat a sentence or name an object in view. Example:  
“I got a haircut today and they did it way too short.”



Courtesy photo by Melanie Sexton



# Neurological Exam -

## 9. Grip Strength

### Assess grip strength

- Grip strength should be strong and equal on both sides.
- Unequal or weak limb strength is abnormal.

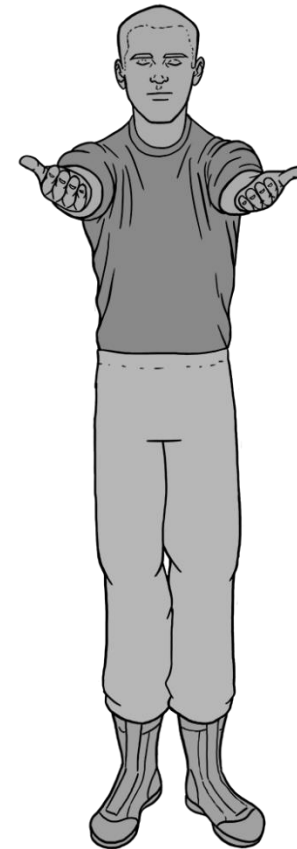


# Neurological Exam -

## 10. Pronator Drift

- Direct patient to stand with eyes closed and arms extended forward, parallel to the ground with palms up. Assess for **five** to **10** seconds:
  - Does either palm turn inward?
  - Does either arm drift down?
  - Any arm or palm drift is abnormal.

NORMAL



ABNORMAL

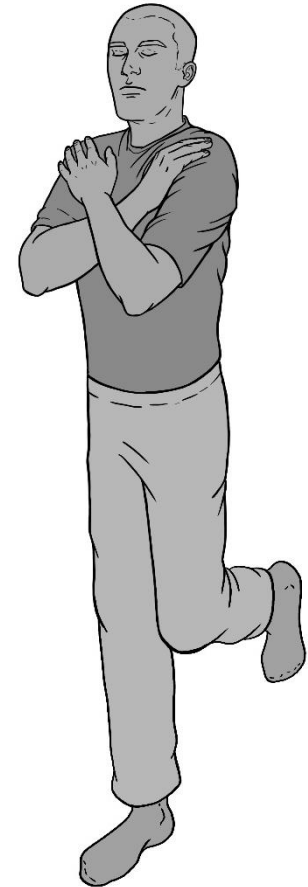


DVBIC image by Kori Zick

# Neurological Exam -

## 11. Single Leg Stance

- Have service member remove shoes if possible and have them stand on one leg with arms across chest and hands touching shoulders, eyes open initially.
- Once patient is balanced, have them close their eyes and time for 15 seconds how long they can maintain their balance. Repeat test with opposite leg.
- If they lose their balance before **8** seconds, it is abnormal.

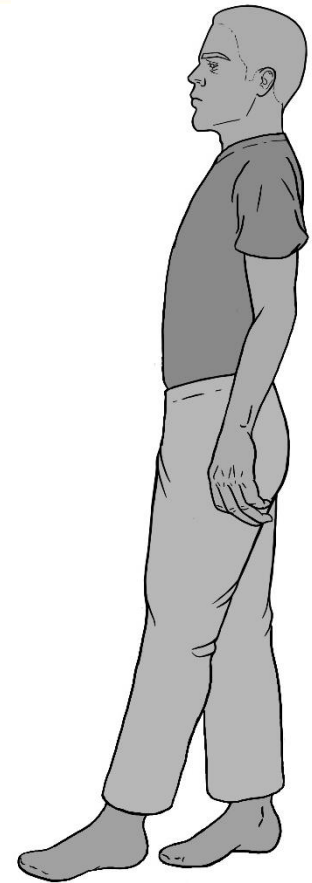


DVBIC image by Kori Zick

# Neurological Exam -

## 12. Tandem Gait

- Have service member remove shoes if possible and take six steps one foot in front of the other, heel-to-toe, with arms at side.
- Stumbling or shifting feet is abnormal.



DVBIC image by Kori Zick

# Neurological Exam

## 13. Pupil Response



- Pupils should be equal size, normal is **2-6** mm.
- Pupils should be round.
- Pupils should get smaller with bright light and become larger in dim light or darkness.
- Pupils should quickly respond to changes in light.
- Unequal pupil size, dilation or constriction delay is abnormal.

# Neurological Exam

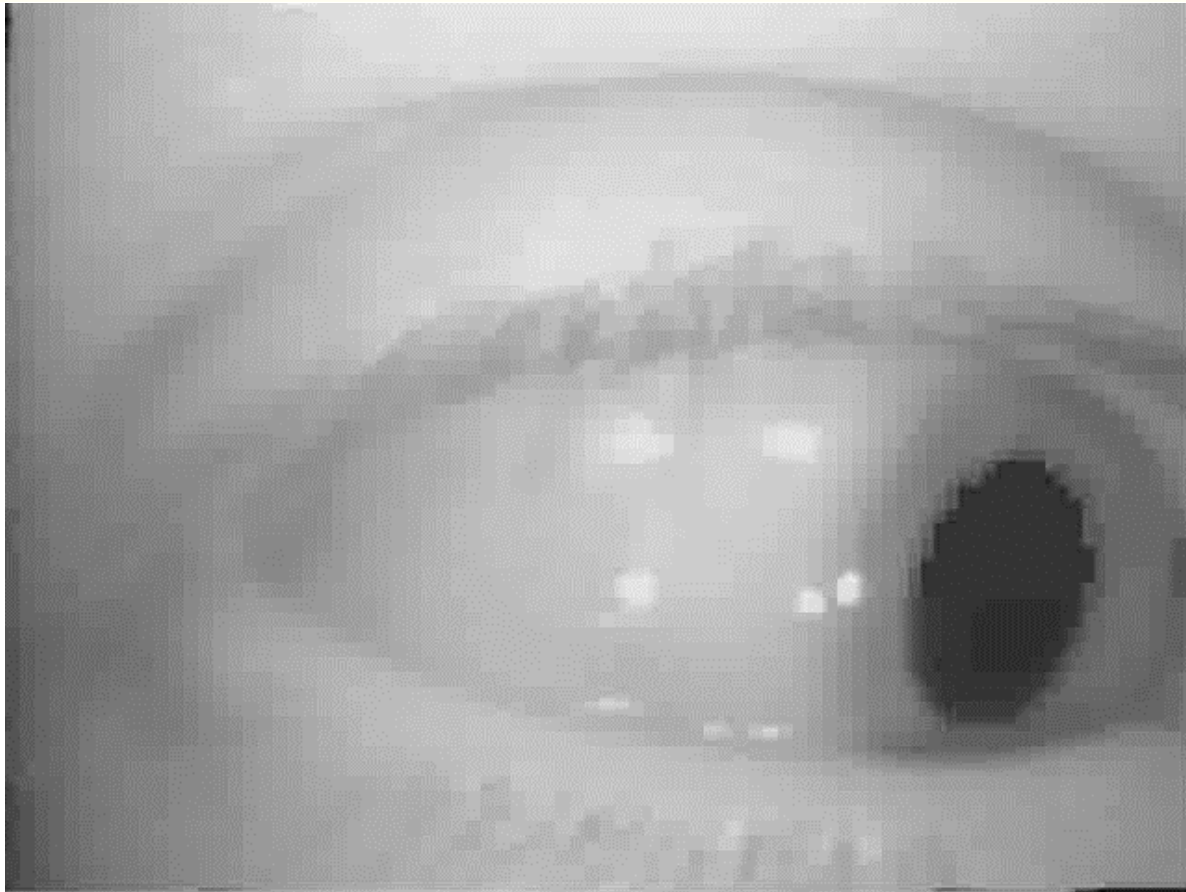
## 14. Eye Tracking



### Extra-ocular eye movement

- Check movement to all vision field areas in both “H” and “X” test patterns.
- Check that both eyes move together.
- Note if the head tilts or any abnormal eye movements such as repetitive, uncontrolled movements or nystagmus.

# Acute Nystagmus



Video courtesy of Dr. Sue Whitney, University of Pittsburgh

# Neurological Exam - Results



- If all sections are normal, check the **All Normal** box.
- If any section is abnormal, check the **Any Abnormal** box.



# Practice Activity 3



Please refer to workbook

Neurological Exam:

- Speech Fluency
- Word Finding
- Grip Strength
- Pronator Drift
- Single Leg Stance
- Tandem Gait
- Pupil Response
- Eye Tracking

# FINISHING THE COGNITIVE EXAM



**Cognitive Exam  
Part 1**

**Neurological  
Exam**

**Cognitive  
Exam Part 2**

**Concentration**

- 15. A. Reverse Digits  
B. Months in Reverse Order
- 16. Delayed Recall

# Cognitive Exam

## 15. Concentration- Reverse Digits



### A. Reverse Digits

Tests concentration by having the SM repeat back a string of numbers in reverse order:

- Use the color number list (A-F) that matches the word list color you used before in the memory section (Question # 6).
- Read the script on the card word-for-word.
- Read the digits at a rate of one-per-second.
- **Do NOT group the digits in any way.**
- Allow the SM two attempts at repeating each digit string (trials 1 and trial 2).

List A	
Trial 1	Trial 2 (if Trial 1 is incorrect)
4-9-3	6-2-9
3-8-1-4	3-2-7-9
6-2-9-7-1	1-5-2-8-5
7-1-8-4-6-3	5-3-9-1-4-8

# Cognitive Exam

## Concentration- Reverse Digits Correct Results



- If **correct** on 1st or 2nd attempts at that digit string:
  - Score one point for that string.
  - Move to the next longer string (4) in the Trial 1 column, in this case: “3-8-1-4.”
- If both attempts at a digit string are incorrect, **STOP** and record a zero for that string AND all the strings that remain.

# Cognitive Exam

## Concentration- Reverse Digits Incorrect Results



- Read the 1<sup>st</sup> 3-digit string:  
“4-9-3.”
  - Correct response would be:  
“3-9-4.”
- If **incorrect** on the 1<sup>st</sup> string:
  - Go to the 1<sup>st</sup> string in the Trial 2 column.
  - Read that 3-digit string: “6-2-9.”
  - Record the score after 2nd attempt.

List A			
Trial 1	Trial 2 (if Trial 1 is incorrect)	Incorrect	Correct
4-9-3	6-2-9	0	1
3-8-1-4	3-2-7-9	0	1
6-2-9-7-1	1-5-2-8-5	0	1
7-1-8-4-6-3	5-3-9-1-4-8	0	1
REVERSE DIGITS SCORE (16A)			
			4

# Cognitive Exam

## 15. Concentration- Months in Reverse Order



### B. Months in Reverse Order

- Instruct the SM to state the months of the year in reverse order.
  - Score 1 for correctly reciting the entire sequence.
  - Score **0** (zero) if **1** or more months is out of sequence or omitted.

# Cognitive Exam - Concentration Scoring



## ■ Total scores for 15.A and 15.B

A. Reverse Digits: maximum score **4** points.

B. Months in Reverse Order: entire  
sequence correct maximum score **1** point.

- Recite the entire sequence correctly  
for a maximum score of **5** points.

# Cognitive Exam -

## 16. Delayed Recall



- Use the same five-word-list as in earlier immediate memory test from page 5 of the MACE 2.
- Do **NOT** repeat the word list this time or indicate how many words are on the list.
- Ask the SM to recall as many words as they can in any order.
- Allow only one trial.
- Score **1** point for each word remembered correctly for a maximum score of **5**.

List A	Incorrect	Correct
Jacket	0	1
Arrow	0	1
Pepper	0	1
Cotton	0	1
Movie	0	1

DELAYED RECALL TOTAL SCORE



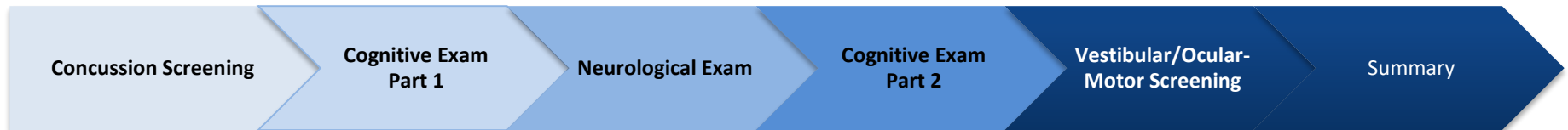
# Practice Activity 4



Please refer to the workbook  
Cognitive Exam (part 2):

- Concentration
- Months in Reverse Order
- Delayed Recall

# CONDUCTING VESTIBULAR/OCULAR-MOTOR SCREENING



**VOMS Contraindication: Unstable Cervical Spine**

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening (VOMS)



## Goal: **Symptom provocation**

VOMS consists of these **seven** tests after evaluating for baseline symptoms (HDNF):

Smooth Pursuits

Saccades

Horizontal Saccades

Vertical Saccades

Convergence

Vestibular-Ocular Reflex (**VOR**)

Horizontal VOR Test

Vertical VOR Test

Visual Motion Sensitivity (**VMS**)

Vestibular/Ocular Motor Test:	Not Tested	Headache 0-10	Dizziness 0-10	Nausea 0-10	Fogginess 0-10	Comments
BASELINE SYMPTOMS:	N/A					
Smooth Pursuits						
Saccades – Horizontal						
Saccades – Vertical						
Convergence (Near Point)						(Near Point in cm): Measure 1: _____ Measure 2: _____ Measure 3: _____
VOR – Horizontal						
VOR – Vertical						
Visual Motion Sensitivity Test						
Total						

Any score above baseline is considered abnormal

**VOMS RESULTS**

☐ All Normal ☐ Any Abnormal

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening Instructions



## VOMS Contraindication: Unstable Cervical Spine

- Consider deferring VOMS if:
  - patient is overtly symptomatic *or*
  - trained provider is unavailable.
- VOMS must be completed before return to duty.
- Use the comment section of score card to record any observed difficulties the patient has performing the VOMS tasks.

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening-

## VOMS Overview



### **Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening**

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening Recording Results



- Perform each of the VOMS test as described in the MACE 2, and in the order they appear in the table.
- Record the answers in the applicable rows for each test. If any VOMS test was **not** performed, indicate that in **“Not Tested”** column.
- Any score **above** the baseline scores, or convergence  $\geq 5$  centimeters (cm) is abnormal.

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening Scoring Chart



Vestibular/Ocular Motor Test:	Not Tested	Headache 0-10	Dizziness 0-10	Nausea 0-10	Fogginess 0-10	Comments
<b>BASELINE SYMPTOMS:</b>	N/A					
Smooth Pursuits						
Saccades – Horizontal						
Saccades – Vertical						
Convergence (Near Point)						(Near Point in cm): Measure 1: _____ Measure 2: _____ Measure 3: _____
VOR – Horizontal						
VOR – Vertical						
Visual Motion Sensitivity Test						
Total						

Any score above baseline is considered abnormal

**VOMS RESULTS**

☐

All Normal

☐

Any Abnormal

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening



## A. Baseline Symptoms

First ask the patient to rate their headache, dizziness, nausea, and fogginess (HDNF) on a scale of **1 to 10** to establish a baseline before testing begins.

Vestibular/Ocular Motor Test:	Not Tested	Headache 0-10	Dizziness 0-10	Nausea 0-10	Fogginess 0-10	Comments
<b>BASELINE SYMPTOMS:</b>	N/A					

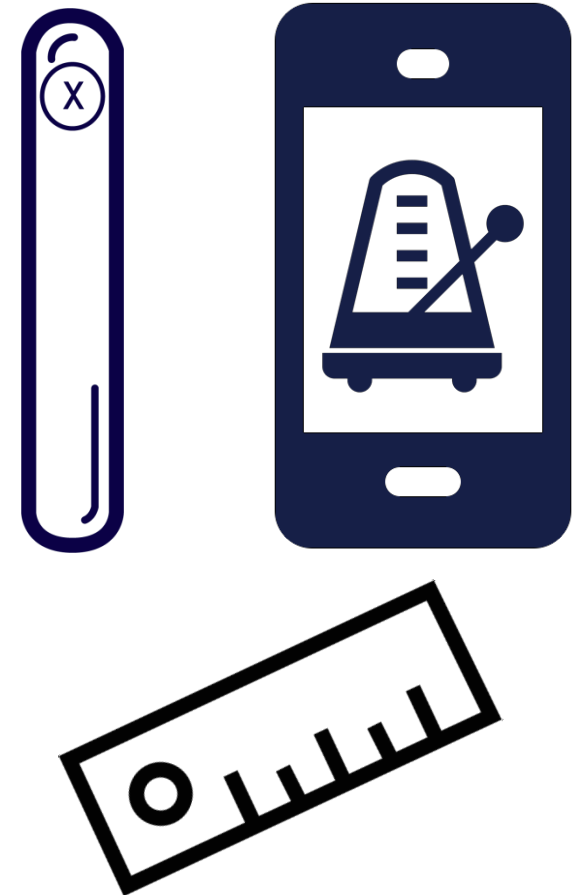


# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening Equipment

To perform the VOMS tests, you need the following:

- A target with a 14-point font in size (for the **Convergence** and **VOR** tests)
- A tape measure with centimeter increments (for the **Convergence** test)
- A metronome (for the VOR and VMS tests)

**Note:** a 14pt target and a cm scale can be found on the last page of the MACE 2.



# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening - Smooth Pursuits

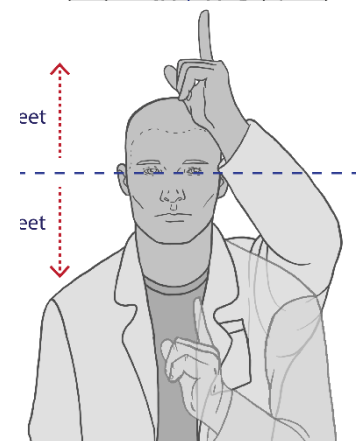
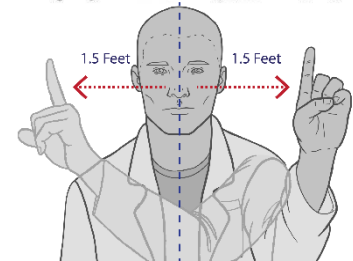
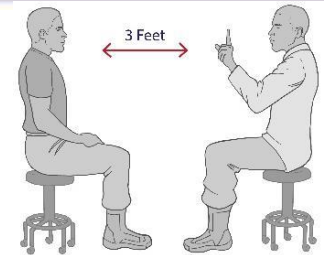


## **Part 1: Smooth Pursuits**

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening -

## B. Smooth Pursuits

- Service member and examiner are seated.
- Hold **fingertip 3 feet** from patient.
- Service member focuses on target as examiner moves target smoothly *horizontally* 1.5 feet right and left of midline at rate requiring **two seconds** to go fully from left to right and right to left. **Perform twice.**
- Repeat in *vertical* direction 1.5 feet above and 1.5 feet below midline, *up and down* moving eyes **two seconds** fully up and two seconds down. **Perform twice.**
- Re-assess and record **HDNF** on zero to 10 scale.



# Practice Activity 5



Please refer to workbook  
VOMS: Smooth Pursuits

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening - Horizontal and Vertical Saccades

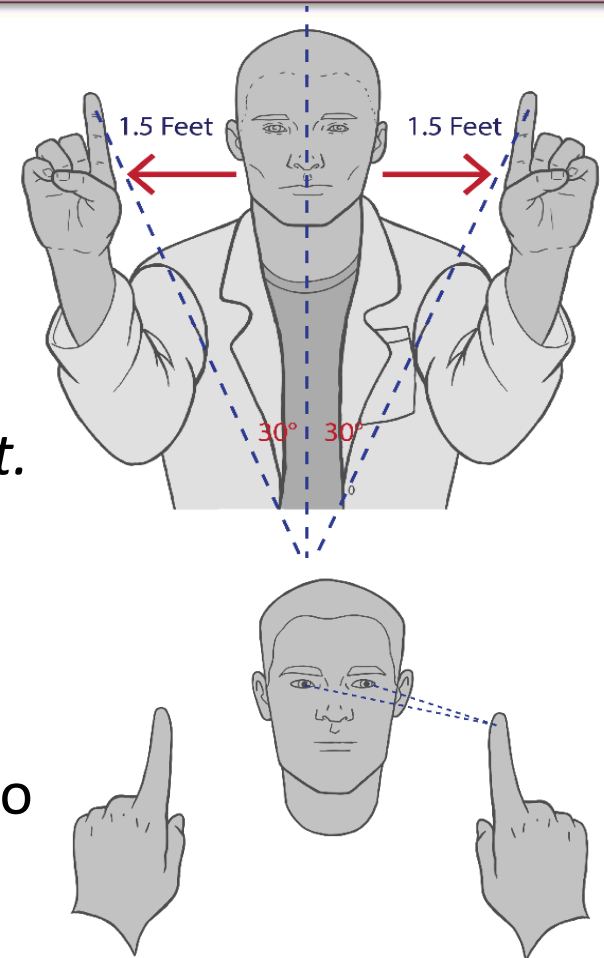


## Part 2: Saccades

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening -

## C. 1 Horizontal Saccades

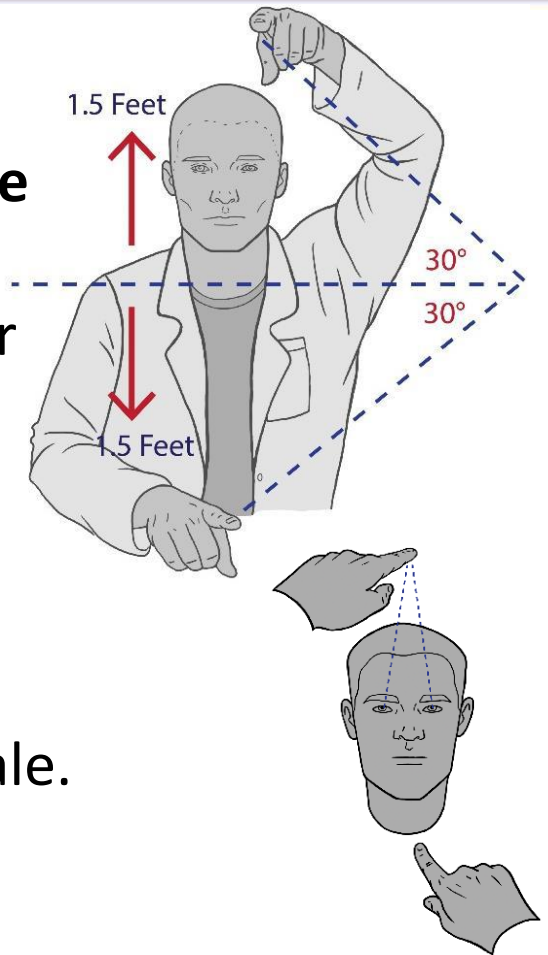
- Service member and examiner are seated.
- Hold **2 fingertips horizontally** at a distance of **three feet** from service member, and move hand **1.5 feet** to the *right* and **1.5 feet** to the *left* of midline, so service member must gaze **30°** to the *left* and **30°** to the *right*.
- Instruct service member to move eyes as quickly as possible from *point-to-point*.
- **Perform 10 times in each direction.**
- Re-assess and record **HDNF** on a scale of zero to 10 scale.



# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening -

## C. 2 Vertical Saccades

- Service member and examiner are seated.
- Repeat with **two** fingertips held *vertically three* feet from service member, and **1.5** feet *above* and **1.5** feet *below* midline, so service member gazes **30°** upward and then **30°** downward.
- Service member moves eyes as quickly as possible from point-to-point.
- Perform **10 times** in each direction.
- Re-assess and record **HDNF** on a zero to 10 scale.



# Practice Activity 6



Please refer to workbook  
VOMS: Saccades



# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening - Convergence

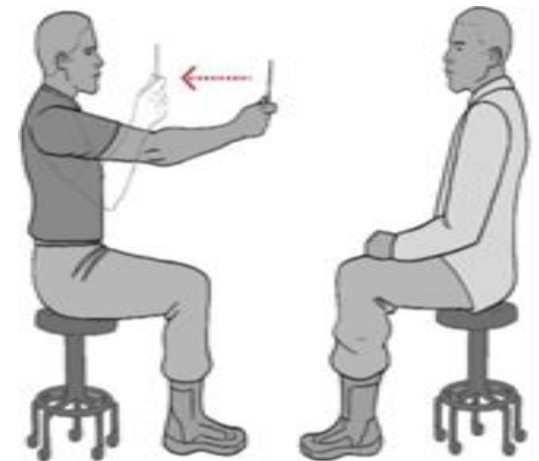
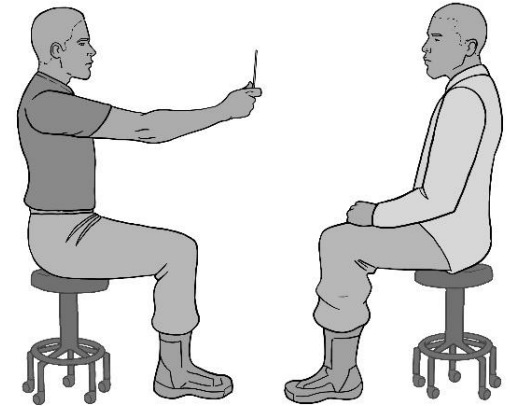


## **Part 3: Convergence**

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening

## D. Convergence

- Seated service member faces examiner.
- Service member focuses on target (MACE 2 page 14) at *arm's length* and slowly brings toward *tip of nose*.
- Service member stops target when **two** distinct images are seen, or when *outward* deviation of **one** eye is observed. Repeat and measure **three** times.
- Record centimeters between target and tip of nose for each trial. A near point of convergence  $\geq 5$  centimeters from the tip of the nose is considered **abnormal**.
- Re-assess and record HDNF on a zero to 10 scale.



# Practice Activity 7



Please refer to workbook  
VOMS: Convergence

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening - Vestibular-ocular reflex test



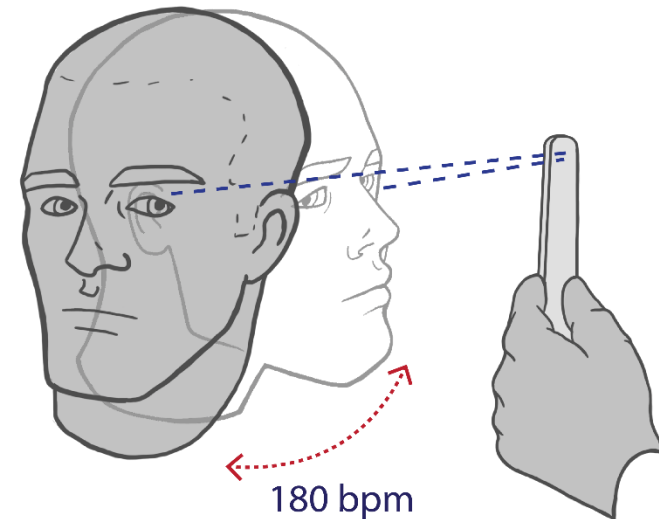
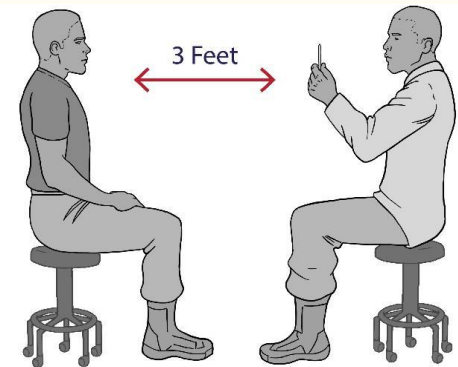
## **Part 4: VOR screen**

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening -

## E.1 Horizontal Vestibular-ocular reflex

### 1) Horizontal VOR test:

- Service member and examiner are seated.
- Examiner holds font target **three** feet in front of service member at midline, and sets **metronome** to **180** beats per minute (bpm).
- While focusing on target, service member turns head **20°** to each side (horizontally) in time to the beat of the metronome.
- Perform **10 times**.
- **Wait 10 seconds**, re-assess and record HNDF score.

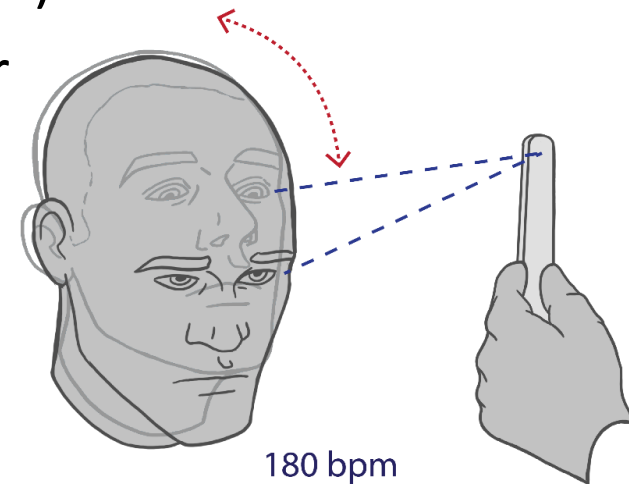
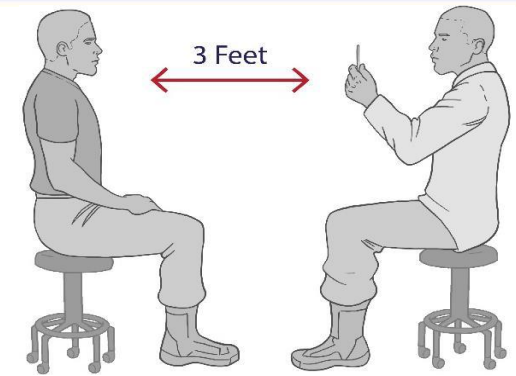


# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening -

## E.2 Vestibular-ocular reflex Test

### 2) Vertical VOR test:

- Service member and examiner are seated.
- Examiner holds target **three** feet in front of service member at midline, and sets the **metronome** to **180** beats per minute (bpm).
- While focusing on target, service member moves head up **20°** and down **20°** (vertically).
- **Perform 10 times.**
- **Wait 10 seconds**, re-assess and record HDNF score.



# Practice Activity 8



Please refer to workbook  
VOMS: VOR test

# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening - Visual Motion Sensitivity Test



## **Part 5: VMS screen**

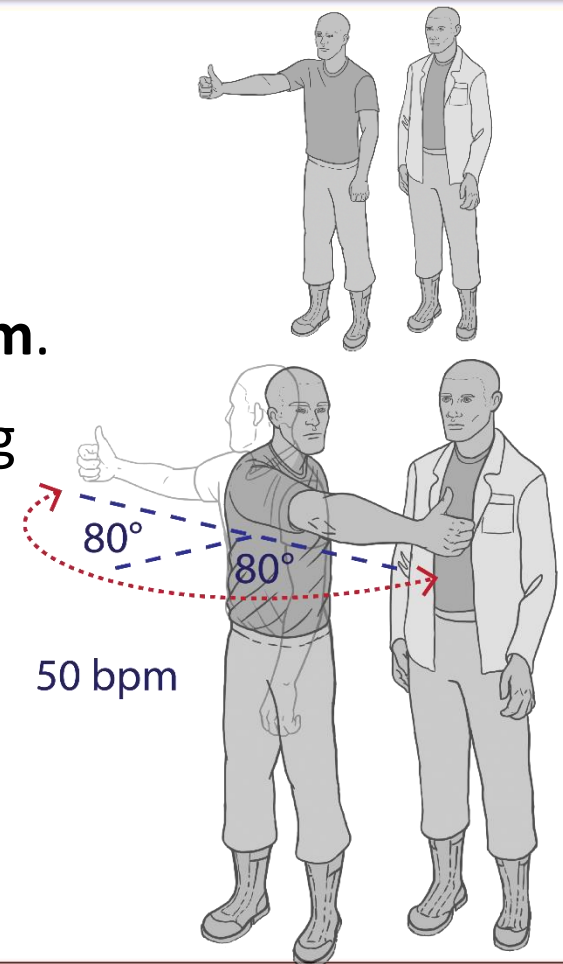
Part 5: Visual Motion Sensitivity  
Screen



# Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening -

## F. VMS Test

- Service member stands with feet shoulder width apart, facing a busy area.
- Examiner stands next to and slightly behind service member. Sets metronome to **50 bpm**.
- Service member outstretches arm. Focusing on their thumb, the service member turns head, eyes and trunk as a unit **80°** right and **80°** left in time to the metronome.
- Perform **five** times.
- Record **HDNF** on a zero to 10 scale.



# Practice Activity 9



Please refer to workbook  
VOMS: VMS test

# Final MACE 2 Scoring



- **Exam Summary**  
Guides provider through scoring
- **Cognitive Results**  
Scoring and results = \_\_\_/30
- **Neurological Results**  
Check + (Abnormal) or - (Normal)
- **Symptom Results**  
Check + (1 or more symptoms) or – (No symptoms)
- **History Results**  
Check + (Positive) or - (Negative)
- **VOMS Results**  
Check + (Positive) or - (Negative) or (Deferred)
- **MACE 2 RESULTS**  
Check + (Positive) or - (Negative)

EXAM SUM-	
Record the data for correct MACE 2 documentation.	
<b>Cognitive Summary</b>	
Orientation Total Score - Q5	<input type="text"/> /5
Immediate Memory Total Score (all 3 trials) - Q6	<input type="text"/> /15
Concentration Total Score (Sections A and B) - Q15	<input type="text"/> /5
Delayed Recall Total Score - Q16	<input type="text"/> /5
<b>COGNITIVE RESULTS</b>	<input type="text"/> /30
≤ 25 is abnormal	
<b>NEUROLOGICAL RESULTS (Q 7-14)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal (+) <input type="checkbox"/> Normal (-)
<b>SYMPTOM RESULTS (Q 3)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 or more symptoms (+) <input type="checkbox"/> No symptoms (-)
<b>HISTORY RESULTS (Q 4A-4C)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive (+) <input type="checkbox"/> Negative (-)
<b>VOMS RESULTS (Q 17)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal (+) <input type="checkbox"/> Normal (-) <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred
<b>MACE 2 RESULTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive (+) <input type="checkbox"/> Negative (-)

# TBI Coding



TBI screening code\*: Z13.850

**Primary TBI diagnostic code: S06.ELSE\*\***

**1. Primary symptom code**, if applicable: (*e.g., H53.2 diplopia*)

**2. Deployment status code**, if applicable\*\*\*  
(*e.g., Z56.82 history of deployment*)

**3. TBI external cause of morbidity code:** (*e.g., Y36.290A*)

*[A- initial visit] operations involving explosions and fragments, military personnel, initial encounter)*

**4. Place of occurrence**, if applicable

**5. Activity code**, if applicable

**6. Personal TBI history:** if applicable Z87.820

\* MACE 2

\*\* Etiology, Location, Severity, Encounter

\*\*\* Deployment code must fall within the first four codes when applicable

*For more information, see DVBIC ICD-10 Coding Guidance Tool.*

# Summative Clinical Case Scenario



Please refer to the workbook

- Symptom Screening
- Summary
- MACE 2 Results
- Concussion History

# Clinical Case Scenario

## Summative Assessment



22-year-old SM engaged in physical fitness training when he fell from the pull up bar and hit his face on the ground. The medic/corpsmen conducts an initial evaluation 30 minutes after injury.



DVBIC Education Division Image

# Clinical Case Scenario

## Screen Results



Observable signs: **3 cm** diameter bruise to left cheekbone, confusion during questioning.

AOC or Memory: SM does not recall how he was injured and reports “seeing stars.”

Symptoms: Slow speech. Unsteady gait. Complaints of headache and dizziness

Concussion History: Had **two** other concussions in the last **12** months.

# Clinical Case Scenario

## Exam



### Part 2:

After the positive concussion screen, the medic/corpsmen proceeds with the MACE 2 exam (starting on page 5).



DVBIC Education Division Image



# Clinical Case Scenario

## Exam Findings



Cognitive 1: Missed **1** orientation question. Incorrectly stated **two** words in each immediate memory trial.

Neurological: Slow and delayed speech. Unsteady balance on single leg stance and tandem gait.

Cognitive 2: Unable to correctly state the months backwards. Reverse Digits he was able to get to **four digits**, then failed on **five** digits. Could not remember **three** of the delayed recall words.

VOMS: **8 cm** for convergence, and symptom provocation of **+2** on two visual tests.

# Clinical Case Scenario

## Exam Summary



### EXAM SUM-

Record the data for correct MACE 2 documentation.

#### Cognitive Summary

Orientation Total Score - Q5

4 / 5

Immediate Memory Total Score (all 3 trials) - Q6

9 / 15

Concentration Total Score (Sections A and B) - Q15

2 / 5

Delayed Recall Total Score - Q16

2 / 5

#### COGNITIVE RESULTS

≤ 25 is abnormal

17 / 30

#### NEUROLOGICAL RESULTS (Q 7-14)

☒

Abnormal (+)

☐

Normal (-)

#### SYMPTOM RESULTS (Q 3)

☒

1 or more symptoms (+)

☐

No symptoms (-)

#### HISTORY RESULTS (Q 4A-4C)

☒

Positive (+)

☐

Negative (-)

#### VOMS RESULTS (Q 17)

☒

Abnormal (+)

☐

Normal (-)

☐

Deferred

#### MACE 2 RESULTS

☒

Positive (+)

☐

Negative (-)

# Key Takeaways



- MACE 2 is to be used as close to time of injury as possible.
- Evaluate for red flags, including abnormal result from structural brain injury detection device (if available).
- Ask the SM if they had a concussion during the last 12 months, had headaches prior to the injury and if they have been diagnosed with depression, anxiety or another behavior disorder (impacts minimum mandatory recovery time and overall rest and recovery time).
- VOMS, Single Leg Stance, and Tandem Gait are new additions to the MACE 2 that support assessment in the vestibular and oculomotor domains.

# Questions ?



- The laminated MACE 2 pocket guide is available for order. The MACE 2 in PDF format can also be downloaded from DVBIC website.
- These items are free upon request at:  
<http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/education>
- Contact the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)
- If you have questions regarding the content of this presentation, please contact [dvbic.dcoe.mil](http://dvbic.dcoe.mil) or [info@dvbic.org](mailto:info@dvbic.org)

# References



- McCrea, M. (2001). Standardized mental status testing on the sideline after sport-related concussion. *Journal of Athletic Training*, 36(3), 274–279. Retrieved from [www.journalofathletictraining.org](http://www.journalofathletictraining.org)
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- Mucha, A., Collins, M. W., Elbin, R., Furman, J. M., Troutman-Enseki, C., DeWolf, R. M., ... Kontos, A. P. (2014). A brief vestibular/ocular motor screening (VOMS) assessment to evaluate concussions preliminary findings. *American Journal of Sports Medicine*, 40(10), 2479-2486. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0363546514543775>

# References (2)



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