For AMEs Who Elect to Perform the OSA Assessment

Evaluating the risk of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) requires clinical judgment based on an integrated assessment of history, symptoms, AND physical/clinical findings. If an AME elects to perform the assessment for OSA, he/she must follow the American Academy of Sleep Medicine guidelines.

After completing the assessment, if the diagnosis of OSA is not made, the AME must sign and submit the AME Assessment Statement - OSA. If the AME confirms the presence of OSA, then full clinical note with test results, if performed, must be submitted.

History of findings that suggest increased risk of OSA include:
- Hypertension requiring more than 2 medications for control or refractory hypertension
- Type 2 Diabetes
- Atrial fibrillation or nocturnal dysrhythmias
- Congestive heart failure
- Stroke
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Motor vehicle accidents, especially those associated with sleepiness/drowsiness
- Under consideration for bariatric surgery

Symptoms that suggest an increased risk of OSA include:
- Snoring
- Daytime sleepiness
- Witnessed apneas
- Complaints of awakening with sensation of gasping or choking
- Non-refreshing sleep
- Frequent awakening (sleep fragmentation) or difficulty staying asleep (maintenance insomnia)
- Morning headaches
- Decreased concentration
- Problems or difficulty with memory or memory loss
- Irritability

Physical/clinical findings that suggest increased risk of OSA include:
- High score on an OSA screening questionnaire (e.g., Berlin, Epworth)
- Increased neck circumference (>17 inches in men, >16 inches in women)
- A Modified Mallampati score of 3 or 4 (assessment of the oral cavity)
- Retrognathia
- Lateral peritonsilar narrowing
- Macroglossia
- Tonsillar hypertrophy
- Elongated/enlarged uvula
- High arched/narrow hard palate
- Nasal abnormalities such as polyps, deviation and turbinate hypertrophy
- Obesity (AASM guidelines)