



WARNING SIGNS OF A RAPIDLY DECLINING PATIENT

- High or low **BODY TEMPERATURE**
- Changes in **HEART RATE** (pulse) or **RESPIRATORY RATE** (breathing)
- A drop in the patient's **BLOOD PRESSURE** (it becomes much lower)
- MENTAL CONFUSION** or other change in mental state
- Decrease in **AMOUNT OF URINE**/urine dark in color, looks "concentrated"
- THE PATIENT STATES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG** with them
- The advocate observes that **THE PATIENT DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT**
- The patient is **SHORT OF BREATH** or having chest tightness or discomfort
- ACUTE PAIN**, especially in the abdomen
- The patient is **VERY PALE** or breaking out in cold sweats

NOTE: A rapid and sustained change of more than 20% *above or below* the patient's *normal* pulse or blood pressure rate is cause for concern. A change of more than 40% is reason to seek help immediately.

GETTING HELP

- Ask for the rapid response team.
- Call your doctor or ask for the attending physician.
- Call the nursing supervisor who can ask for the administrator on call.
- Document your concerns in the chart and note that you have asked for help!