**Signs and Symptoms of Selected Medical Emergencies**

**Transient Ischemic Attack**

*Signs last minutes to hours*

Confusion

Dizziness

Aphasia

Falling

Personality changes

Diplopia

Hemiparesis

Amnesia

Motor weakness

Unilateral loss of vision

Ataxia

Headaches

**Acute Glaucoma**

Severe pain in and around eye

Nausea, vomiting

Blurred vision

Perception of halos around eyes

**Hyperthermia**

Confusion

Rectal temperature >102 degrees

Rapid, weak, irregular pulse

Weakness

Headache

Hot, dry skin

Nausea, vomiting

Muscle cramps

Loss of consciousness

**Dehydration**

Confusion

Weakness, lethargy

Nausea, vomiting

Increased concentration, reduced

volume urine

Weight loss

Increased pulse

Elevated temperature

Decreased blood pressure

Dry tongue, mucous membrane,

skin, eyes

Poor skin turgor

**Detached Retina**

Sudden or gradual onset of symptoms

Blurred vision

Blank areas-🡪complete loss of vision

Feeling of coating over eye

**Hypothermia**

Confusion

Decreased level of consciousness

Rectal temperature <95 degrees

Decreased pulse

Slower respirations

Gray skin color

Cold skin

Puffy face

Absence of sweating

**Myocardial Infarction**

Confusion

**Pulmonary Embolism**

Shortness of breath

Increased respirations

Chest discomfort

ECG and x-ray changes

Low blood oxygen

Dyspnea and hemoptysis may or

may not be present

Tachycardia may be absent if

resident taking beta blocker or

has disease of cardiac conduction

##### Congestive Heart Failure

Dyspnea at rest

Shortness of breath

Fatigue

Confusion

Rapid weight gain

*Left-sided failure:* cough,

orthopnea, dyspnea on exertion,

nocturia, abnormal breath sounds

*Right-sided failure:* distended neck

veins, symmetrical peripheral

edema, hepatic enlargement and

tenderness, abdominal distension,

ascites, GI discomfort

Sudden dyspnea

Weakness

Pain radiating to arm, chest, neck,

abdomen *(although pain may be*

*absent)*

Moist, pale skin

Decreased blood pressure

Low grade fever

Elevated sedimentation rate

**Pneumonia**

Confusion

Increased respirations

Dehydration

Fatigue

Anorexia

Cough (may be less intense and

nonproductive despite secretions

in lung)

Fever (may not be of a high spiking

nature)

Chest pain (may be absent)

Abnormal breath sounds

Elevated WBC may not be present