**The** **AVPU Information Protocol**

**EMS Dispatchers and Responders will often be interested in the following information that first responders can provide pursuant to their on site assessments:**

**The AVPU scale** has only 4 possible outcomes for recording (. The assessor should always work from best (A) to worst (U) to avoid unnecessary tests on patients who are clearly conscious. The four possible recordable outcomes are:

**A = Alert** - a fully awake (although not necessarily orientated) patient. This patient will have spontaneously open eyes, will respond to voice (although may be confused) and will have bodily motor function.

**V = Voice** - the patient makes some kind of response when you talk to them, which could be in any of the three component measures of Eyes, Voice or Motor - e.g. patient's eyes open on being asked "are you okay?!". The response could be as little as a grunt, moan, or slight move of a limb when prompted by the voice of the rescuer.

**P = Pain** - the patient makes a response on any of the three component measures when pain stimulus is used on them. Recognized methods for causing the pain stimulus include a [Sternal rub](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sternal_rub&action=edit&redlink=1) (although in some areas, it is no longer deemed acceptable), where the rescuers knuckles are firmly rubbed on the [breastbone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breastbone) of the patient, pinching the patient's [ear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ear) and pressing a [pen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pen) (or similar instrument) in to the bed of the patient's [fingernail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nail_%28anatomy%29). A fully conscious patient would normally locate the pain and push it away, however a patient who is not alert and who has not responded to voice (hence having the test performed on them) is likely to exhibit only withdrawal from pain. This is a key reason why voice checks should always be performed first, and the person assessing should be suitably trained.

**U = Unresponsive** - Sometimes seen noted as '[Unconscious](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconscious)', this outcome is recorded if the patient does not give any Eye, Voice or Motor response to voice or pain.