

## Checklist for Unilateral Weakness and Numbness

The student asks the following questions:

- What part of your body did you experience weakness and numbness?
- Were you able to move the affected extremity?
- Did you fall or lose balance?
- Did you or do you have a headache?
- What was the intensity, length, and frequency of the weakness and numbness?
- How rapidly did the weakness and numbness occur? (Symptoms from brain tumors tend to occur over a longer time, whereas stroke symptoms occur more suddenly.)
- Have you had any other occurrences?
- What were you doing when you felt the numbness and weakness?
- Were there any associated symptoms such as difficulty swallowing (dysphagia), difficulty speaking clearly (dysarthria), headache, or visual disturbances?
- Have you had any trauma to your head (including motor vehicle accidents or falls)?
- Are you on anticoagulation therapy?
- Do you have a past history of cancer?
- Do you use recreational drugs? (IV drug users may develop brain abscesses.)

The student reviews the risk factors for stroke with the patient: hypertension, diabetes, cigarette smoking, hyperlipidemia, AIDS, recreational drugs, alcoholism, family history of stroke, advanced age, atrial fibrillation, carotid artery stenosis, LVH on ECG, TIAs, and lack of exercise.