Examples of poor evaluation entries in the healthcare record

**Example 1:**
The patient had a poor night, sleeping fitfully. She slipped and knocked her elbow when she got out of bed, accident form completed, but patient okay.

**Example 2:**
William confused during the night, wandering on several occasions and talking about his wife. To assist him with breathlessness, he was encouraged to keep the nasal cannula in place.

**Example 3:**
Went to x-ray depart today for barium enema – fine on return

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**Good practice pointers**

- Be specific about the timing of events as this could be important if the patient’s condition deteriorated
- When describing an accident detail the location, extent and nature of the injury
- Provide sufficient detail about the context of the incident as this may prompt further investigation or assessment of a patient’s mental or emotional state
- Use meaningful and factual information avoiding phrases such as “good night,” “up and about,” or “usual day”
- Include factual observable data and avoid statements such as “appears to” and “seems to” when describing observations and events