

# Medical Interview 101



Disclosure: I am not an English teacher

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# Medical Interview 101

ADAPT FROM  
PRESENTATION OF  
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## Introduce yourself

Hello Mr/Ms...(lastname).....

My name is Dr...(lastname).....

I am an Internist/general practitioner at .....

*(Should you wish to take notes, ask the patients permission to do so)*

## Chief complaint (PC)

What can I do for you today?

What brought you to the hospital?

What is bothering you right now?

## LODCRAFT : Approach to chief complaint

Location  
Onset  
Duration  
Characteristics  
Refer(region)  
Association symptom  
Factor(+/-)  
Time

## History of presenting illness (HPI)

Site: Where exactly *is* the pain?  
Can you show me where the pain is?

Onset: When *did* it start  
was it constant/ intermittent, gradual/sudden?  
Does it come and go?  
How long *has it been* going on?

Time course: Does it follow any time pattern?  
How long did it last?

Character: What is the pain like e.g. sharp, burning, tight?

## History of presenting illness (HPI)

Radiation: Does it radiate/move anywhere?

Associations: Is there anything else associated with the pain?  
e.g. sweating, vomiting

Exacerbating/relieving factors:  
Does anything make it better or worse?

Severity: How severe is the pain, consider using the 1-10 scale?

## Past medical history (PMH)

What medical problems or illnesses *have* you *had* in the past?  
Tell me about the past *hospitalizations* and surgeries.

Are you taking any *medications*? Anything *over-the-counter*? herbal medicines and/or health foods?

How often are you taking it? (*once-a-day, twice-a-day...*)

Any allergies? Food or medications? What kind of reactions?

## Family History

Please tell me about any illnesses that may *run* in your family.

## Personal and Social History

Do you drink, smoke, or use other *drugs*?

Have you ever (smoked)?

How many cigarettes per day?

## Personal and Social History

Are you single, married, widowed or divorced?

Do you have children?

Are you currently **sexually active**? (have you ever been....?)

In the past 12 months, how many sex **partners** have you had? Male, female or both?

Do you use protection? All of the time?

## Personal and Social History

Whom do you live with?

What do you do for work?

## Review of Systems

Skin: any skin problems? rash? itch? sores? moles?

Eyes: eye problems? vision loss? itchy eyes? blurry vision? **double vision**?

Ears, nose, mouth, sinuses, and throat: any trouble with your hearing, ears, mouth, sinuses, or throat?

Lungs: any lung or breathing problems? coughs? chest pain?

Heart: heart problems? **racing heart**? skipping beats?

## Review of Systems

Digestive: stomach problems? stomach pain? nausea? vomiting? diarrhea? constipation? bloating? blood in **stool**?

Genitourinary: trouble with urinating? unusual color or smell? sexual problems? Menstrual period/cycle?

Hematologic: easy bruising or bleeding?

Endocrine: feeling too cold or too hot compared to others? excessive thirst, hunger, or urination?

## Review of Systems

Musculoskeletal: problem with your joints or muscles, such as pain, swelling, weakness?

Neurological: weakness, numbness, or tingling in arms or legs? problem with walking or balance? memory problems? headaches? seizures?

Psychiatric: anxiety? depression?

## Patients do not understand medical terms

### MEDICAL TERM

Sputum

Trachea

Axilla

Defecate

Feces

### NON-MEDICAL TERM

Phlegm

Windpipe

Armpit

Bowel movement

Stool

## Patients do not understand medical terms

### MEDICAL TERM

Rhinorrhea  
Dyspepsia  
Tetany  
Myalgia  
Diplopia  
Tinnitus

### NON-MEDICAL TERM

Runny nose  
Indigestion/heart burn  
Muscle cramps  
Muscle aches  
Double vision  
Ringing in the ear

## Paraphrase

I see...

I understand that you are in pain...

Let me summarize...

## Physical Examination

Now I'll do your physical exam.

*(Wash your hands)*

Now I'm going to...

Let me...

- **look** at your joints
- **listen** to your heart and lungs
- **feel** your neck for any swollen glands
- **tap** your stomach

## Physical Examination

I would like you to...

Could you please...

- close your eyes
- take a deep breath in and out
- swallow
- sit up/lay down/stand up
- do this

## Physical Examination

Just relax

Just breath normally

I'm going to press/palpate...

- Let me know if it hurts.

## At the end of the session

Summary the history and PE

I think/believe that you may have...

Let me run some test...

I'm going to give you...

## Extra notes on history taking

- Give patient attention
- Use language that patient understand
- Let patient talk
- Open question first, close question later
- Clarify the meaning of the term - Reflex back
- Actively listening
- Minimum note taking

## Professionalism

- Knock the door
- Wash your hand
- Introduce yourself
- Explain why are you there
- Listen attentively
- Aware of Multicultural standard
  - Firm hand shake
  - Maintain eye contact

## You can do it !

- Learn like a baby
  - Listen → talk
- Speak slowly
- Learning by doing
- Practice & practice

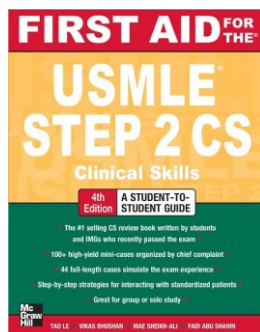


## Quick tips to “fake it”

1. Speak with confident
  - In this world non-native speakers > native speakers
2. the last sounds esp. SSSSSS
  - Appendicitis, football, cast, etc.
3. Open the dictionary for phonetic
  - May not sound like it looks.
  - Stomach, ischemia, syncope, vitamin
4. Stress and intonation
  - A-'na-to-my
  - 'Med-i-cine

## Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZbPmkICD7I>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzoeBJyVIE0>  
 Etc.





Patch Adams 1998