

## Doctor–Patient Interactions

## 00 Warm Up Questions

1. How are the interactions doctors have with patients different from those that nurses have with patients?
2. How many patients would you say a GP sees in an average day?



## 01 Vocabulary 1 – Common Phrases

- take off / remove your shirt.
- pull down / remove your pants.
- gently press on [body part]
- I'm going to check for
- let me take / have a look
- where does it hurt?
- tell me where it hurts.
- I'm worried there may be damage to
- can you move your?
- can you add weight to your?
- send you for:
  - x-rays
  - blood tests
- I have the results of:
  - the x-rays
  - blood test
  - biopsy, etc.
- the results from (test) show
- the good news is
- the bad news is
- fortunately / unfortunately
- as you can see here
- perform surgery / operation
- it's a minor procedure
- it's a serious surgery
- make a small incision on the
- have you come down with?
- it has spread to
- do you smoke?
- do you consume alcohol?
- how often do you?
- patient–doctor confidentiality
- everything we discuss is confidential.
- do you eat right and exercise regularly/ daily?
- I've looked at your chart
- based on what you've told me
- how long have you been experiencing these symptoms?
- I can refer you to a specialist.
- we'll need to act fast
- have a survival rate of %

## 02

## Vocabulary 2 – Explaining Dosage &amp; Medicine

- take [one, two, three, etc.]
  - in the morning / with breakfast
  - in the evening / with dinner
  - when you wake up
  - before bed
- you are allergic to
- I’m going to prescribe you
- take this to the pharmacy
- antibiotics
- side effects
- if you have a reaction to
- follow the instructions on the bottle



## Dialogue Examples

Dialogue 1

**Doctor:** Hello Mr. Singh. I hear your back isn’t doing to well.

**Patient:** No, it’s not.  
I fell off a ladder while painting the house.  
It hurts so much and it’s even hard to breathe.

**Doctor:** That’s terrible.  
Okay well let me first see how it looks on the outside.  
**Please take off your shirt...** Hmm I see.  
It’s badly bruised. I’m going to **gently press on** your back.  
**Please tell me where it hurts.**

[moving hands around patient’s back]

**Patient:** Ah, there! Oh, ouch that’s where it hurts the most.



**Doctor:** Hmm, **I'm worried there may be damage to** your spinal cord. We'll need to **send you for x-rays**.  
Mr. Singh, for now let's get you in a wheelchair until we get the results of your x-rays.

...

**Doctor:** Alright Mr. Singh. **I have the results of** your x-rays. **The good news is**, there's no serious nerve damage to your spine.  
The bad news is, you have a fracture in your spine and we'll need to **perform surgery**. **As you can see here**, the T9, T10, and T11 are misaligned.  
That's probably where you landed.

**Patient:** Surgery?!

**Doctor:** Yes. But please don't worry. **It's a minor procedure** that won't require much rehabilitation afterwards.  
**You're very lucky** that's not more serious.

**Patient:** Wow, I didn't think it would be this bad.

**Doctor:** I'll have to admit you for a few days.

### Comprehension Questions

1. What does the doctor see when the patient takes off his shirt?
2. How does the doctor initially examine the patient?
3. Where does the doctor send the patient?
4. What is the good news and the bad news the doctor has for the patient?
5. Is the surgery a serious one?

## Dialogue 2

**Doctor:** Please have a seat. I'm just going to ask you a few simple questions and then your check-up will be complete.  
How long have you been in country for?

**Patient:** 1 year now.

**Doctor:** Alright.

Have you experienced any sudden weight loss since you started living here?

**Patient:** No, not really.

**Doctor:** **Have you come down with a** fever recently?

**Patient:** No.

**Doctor:** **Do you smoke?**

**Patient:** Yes. But only a pack a week.

**Doctor:** **How often do you consume alcohol?**

**Patient:** Once or twice a week I guess.

**Doctor:** Have you engaged in any unprotected s\*\* since your last check-up?

**Patient:** Um, that's kind of personal...

**Doctor:** I need to know. Please don't worry. **Everything you say here is confidential.**

**Patient:** Okay... No, I haven't.

**Doctor:** **Do you eat right and exercise regularly?**

**Patient:** Yes. I play volleyball every Wednesday and Saturday.  
And I also jog every other day.

**Doctor:** Alright Mr. Bayley, **I've looked at your chart, and based on what you've told me,** I can say you are very healthy. Maybe you could cut back on smoking, or even just quit all together, but otherwise you're fine.  
You can go now. Thank you.

## Comprehension Questions

1. How long has the patient been in the country for?
2. Does the patient smoke?
3. Why wouldn't the doctor disclose any of the information the patient gives him?
4. Does the doctor say the patient is healthy?
5. List the 7 questions the doctor asked the patient and practice saying them yourself.

## Dialogue 3

**Doctor:** Hello. My name's Dr. Hudson—Cam. What's wrong with you?

**Patient:** I think I might have an ear infection.

It really hurts and I can't hear out of my right ear at all.

**Doctor:** **How long have you been experiencing these symptoms?**

**Patient:** Since yesterday.

**Doctor:** Let's have a look at you ear then... Yep.

That's an infected ear alright.

Now **looking at your chart, I see you're allergic to** penicillin...  
**I'm going to prescribe you** another antibiotic. Here you are.  
It's called sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim. It's great for getting rid of infections.

**Take one in the morning and night.** Take it for 10 days.

One **side-effect** of this antibiotic is that it makes your skin weaker in the sun, so be sure to wear sunscreen when you go outside.

**If you have any reactions to it,** don't take any more and go to the ER right away.

Do you understand?

**Patient:** Yes. One for the morning and night.

**Doctor:** No, take one in the morning and one at night.

**Patient:** I got it. Thank you.

### Comprehension Questions

1. What is wrong with the underlined question the doctor asked?  
How can you change it?
2. Which ear is infected?
3. How long has the patient been experiencing pain?
4. What is the patient allergic to?
5. What does the doctor prescribe the patient?
6. How many times a day should the patient take the medicine? For how many days?
7. What is one of the side effects of the medicine?
8. What should the patient do if they experience a reaction to the antibiotic?

### Dialogue 4

**Doctor:** Thank you for coming in today. **Unfortunately, I have some bad news for you.**

**The results from the mammogram show** that you do have breast cancer.

I'm so sorry.

**Patient:** Oh my God...

**Doctor:** I'm so sorry. **I can refer you to a specialist.**

A wonderful oncologist who will know what's the best course to take from here.

**Patient:** Doctor, is this cancer beatable?

**Doctor:** Yes, fortunately it is. but **we'll need to act fast** to stop it from getting worse. This cancer **has an 85% survival rate.**

## Comprehension Questions

1. What kind of cancer does the patient have?
2. Who can the doctor refer their patient to?
3. What is the survival rate of this cancer according to the doctor?

## Dialogue Practise

You are a doctor. How would you respond in the following situation?

**Patient:** Hi doc. I think I might have a come down with some kind of infection. I have a big gross spot on my side.

**You:**

**Patient:** About 3 days. I was walking by an old rusty car and I accidentally bumped into a part of it. It cut me.

**You:**

**Patient:** Not sure.

**You:**

## 03 Exercises

### Exercise 1

What do these phrases mean or in what scenarios would you use them?

1.	let me take/ have a look	
2.	it's a minor procedure	
3.	everything we discuss is confidential.	
4.	the good news is	
5.	as you can see here	
6.	gently press on	
7.	tell me where it hurts.	
8.	I've looked at your chart	
9.	the results from the test show	
10.	do you smoke?	
11.	side effects	
12.	take one in the morning, afternoon, and night	
13.	how long have you been experiencing these symptoms?	
14.	follow the instructions on the bottle	
15.	I'm going to send you for x-rays	



## Exercise 2

Fix the errors in the following sentences.

- 1) I gently press on your knee like this.
- 2) Let me checking your nose to seeing what wrong.
- 3) Are you consume alcohol?
- 4) I have the result from your blood test and the news good is they are negative!
- 5) Where does it pain? Does it painful when I touch here?
- 6) We will need to dance surgery. But don't worry due to it is a minor process.
- 7) You is need to taking one in the morning and night.
- 8) Drink this medicine.
- 9) How long do you engage in s\*\*?
- 10) I can refer you a specialist.

## Exercise 3

Do a dictation for the following dialogue. Practise the role of the doctor.

**Doctor:** Hello. I hear we broke our leg playing soccer.

**Patient:** Yeah. I tried to score a goal but I totally missed the ball and  
**1)** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Doctor:** Okay. **2)** \_\_\_\_\_ so I can examine it.  
I'll just **3)** \_\_\_\_\_ press on it.

**Patient:** \*winces\* Ouch!

**Doctor:** Sorry. Can **4)** \_\_\_\_\_ your leg or **5)** \_\_\_\_\_ at all?

**Patient:** No. Not at all.

**Doctor:** I see. Well, I'll need **6)** \_\_\_\_\_ to see where the break is and how bad it is.



## 04 End of Lesson Questions

1. Can you think of any cultural difference patients might experience when visiting a clinic or hospital in your country?