

## Cancer care – Candidate instructions

You are the FY1 on the oncology admissions unit and you have been asked to speak to assess this patient.

Mike Griffin has been referred with Back Pain. They have a previous diagnosis of Prostate Cancer.

**A copy of oncology letter and observation chart will be provided in your reading time.**

You will have 20 minutes for this station and will be required to:

- Take a history (8 minutes)
- Answer examiners questions relating to findings (2 mins)

10-20 mins

- Discuss the patient's recent investigation results with them
- Share the management
- Answer any questions the patient has

## Oncology letter

1/1/24

Oncology department

Mike Griffin  
13 Hamilton Road, Leicester, LE6 1PW

Dear Dr,  
Diagnosis: Prostate Cancer

I have reviewed Mike Griffin in clinic today, after 3 months of active surveillance. Due to symptom progression combined with raised PSA and worsening of malignant findings from template biopsy, I have discussed external beam radiotherapy with Mike and he has consented. As such, we will begin treatment and arrange for follow-up in 3 months time.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Andrews

## Cancer care – Patient instructions

Age: 65

Presenting complaint: Back Pain

History of presenting complaint:

- Lower localised back pain
- Deep pain, 8/10
- Present since this morning
- Worse when lying down and coughing

Other relevant symptoms:

- Stabbing pain running down back of leg
- Haven't urinated yet, normally 3-4 times by this part of the day

Systems review:

- No Headache, Fever, Rash, Vomiting, Changes to bowel movements,
- No difficulty breathing, changes to vision, behavioural changes

ICE:

- Ideas: Poor posture
- Concerns: Cancer spread
- Expectations: Painkillers

PMHx: Prostate cancer

Drug Hx: None, No allergies

Family Hx: None

Social Hx:

- Glass of whisky every evening
- No smoking or recreational drug use
- Retired army veteran

Patient questions:

- If not given enough time, interrupt candidate to ask for a "minute to process"
- "How did this happen, I did the radiotherapy"
- "Do I just need physiotherapy then?"

## Cancer care – Examiner marksheet

Introduces themselves and confirms patient details	
Puts patient at ease and shows empathy	
Open questions and then narrows down	
History of presenting complaint	
Address ICE	
Asks about PMHx, Drug Hx, Family Hx, Social Hx and other history if relevant	
Summaries and clarifies	
Correctly answers examiners questions	

Examiner Q: What is your most likely diagnosis and why?

**Spinal Cord Compression. Back pain, radicular pain and neurological disturbance**

Examiner Q: Suggest an investigation

**Urgent Whole Spine MRI**



**Image taken from Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh**

Examiner Q: How would you manage this patient acutely?

**Surgical decompression (within 48 hours)**

Correctly interprets all clinical information	
Explains investigations results accurately to patient	
Clarifies understanding	
Has a clear structure such as SPIKES	
Chunks down information and checks understanding	
Skilled in breaking bad news	
Holistic approach demonstrated	
Explains next steps within levels of competence (Acute and long-term)	
Summarises and allows time for questions	

**Global Impression:**

- Excellent
- Good
- Pass
- Borderline
- Fail

**Patient Impression/comments:**