

## OSCE History Taking – Notes for Actor

### **Patient demographics:**

21-year-old male presenting with abdominal pain  
Location: Surgical Assessment Unit

### **Presenting Complaint:**

Abdominal pain

### **History of Presenting Complaint:**

**S** – Right sided pain

**Q** – sharp pain

**I** – 9 out of 10

**T** – started 6 hours ago

**A** – coughing makes worse

**R** – none, tried paracetamol but not helped

**S** – fever, vomited once only a little bit but no blood

If asked about radiation then say started in centre then moved to the right.

### **Other history:**

No red flags such as weight loss, blood or any other symptoms  
Never had anything similar

### **ICE**

No idea what it is but afraid it could be cancer as family history with granddad having bowel cancer in 40s. Just wants the pain to go away.

### **PMH + Surgical History**

Asthmatic but well controlled with inhalers  
No surgical history

### **Drug History**

Just inhalers – SABA and ICS  
Allergic to penicillin – rash  
No substance misuse

### **Family History**

Bowel cancer – grandad in his 40s  
No other

### **Social History**

Student that drinks socially  
Never smoked  
Healthy diet and exercises regularly at gym

### **Diagnosis**

Acute Appendicitis

## **OSCE History Taking – Notes for Candidate Template**

**Role:** Junior doctor on surgical assessments unit

**Presenting complaint:** 21-year-old male presenting with abdominal pain

**Please take a history in 8 minutes**

**There will be 2-minute further questions from examiner at the end**

## OSCE History Taking – Examiner marksheet

### **Opening:**

- Introduces themselves
- Confirms Patient demographics
- Explains and gains consent from patient about consultation

### **Presenting complaint and History of presenting complaint:**

- Open questioning to begin
- Structured approach e.g. SQITARS
- Red flags
- ICE
- Uses clear language and avoids jargon
- Asks about radiation
- Asks about upper GI symptoms
- Reassures patient

### **Systemic enquiry:**

- Screens for relevant symptoms in other body systems

### **PMH/Surgical history**

- Asks about any medical conditions
- Asks about relevant surgical procedures

### **Drug History, Social and Family History:**

- Asks about both prescribed and over the counter medication
- Allergies and what happens during allergy
- Substance misuse
- Alcohol and Smoking history
- Occupation
- Support at home/mobility
- Relevant Family History

### **Ending consultation:**

- Summaries and clarifies any points
- Thanks Patient
- Signposting

**EXAMINER FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:**

**1. What is your top differential diagnosis and why?**

Acute appendicitis – reasonable explanation

**2. What initial investigations/examinations would you order for this patient?**

FBC, U&Es, CRP, ESR

Ultrasound, CT

**3. What is your initial management plan?**

Surgery

**Global Impression:**

- Excellent
- Good
- Pass
- Borderline
- Fail

**Patient Impression/comments:**