Ethics and Professionalism 2 – Notes for Candidate

ETHICS + PROFESSIONALISM: 8 minutes + 2 minutes questions

You are the FY1 working in a GP practice on a busy Friday afternoon.

Your next patient is a 23 year old Laura James who is coming to see you with severe leg pain.

She had only just presented last week with a fractured wrist for which she was sent to the hospital. She had said she sustained this whilst lifting heavy equipment.

You note there have been a few incidences of injuries in the last few months. You are beginning to grow concerned and wonder whether these are accidental.

Please take a history from Laura.

Ethics and Professionalism 2 - Notes for Actor

PC: Bruised Lower Left Leg

HOPC: Fell in the garden, hit some big stones that were lying around the garden 2 days ago. She thought nothing of it but then a bruise formed. It is painful and she would like some pain relief for it. PMH: NIL, one previous visit to the hospital for a broken wrist last month. SH: Lives at home with partner in a flat, works as a hairdresser, partner also does not work currently as lost his job a few months ago.

Only drinks alcohol occasionally, smokes 10-15/ day, no substance abuse. She does not have any children at home as she lost custody to their dad - current partner ended up hitting her child.

- she thinks it was a genuine mistake and you don't think he meant it.

On further prompting, you break into tears.

- You say that your partner was once very sweet to you but once he lost his job he has slowly become abusive, he would belittle your appearance and hit you (slapping, pushing, shoving) he also uses your money for alcohol. You have never needed to be admitted to the hospital but have needed treatment. You sometimes do and sometimes don't feel safe at home some days are good and some bad. Your mood has been low since all of this has started, you've not been enjoying work or home but you do chores and at work and at home because you are the sole breadwinner and he doesn't help at home.
- This particular time when you sustained this injury he wanted more money from the rent and you refused to give so he pushed you hard and you ended up hitting the fireplace hence the bruise.
- You think he is going through a tough phase right now and then once he finds a new job he will go back to before.

On being offered help such as from the police:

• you refuse to get the police involved, ask the doctor to keep things in between yourselves, you do not want him arrested or to be separated from him

On being offered information and further questions:

- you don't have any friends here as this is a new city but your mother lives half an hour away
- Your finances are currently in a joint account.
- You take the doctors advice but say you won't be needing it as the abuse has never gone beyond a push/ shove.

Ethics and Professionalism 2 - Examiner marksheet

MARKING RUBRIC

Opening:

- Introduce with full name and grade
- Check patient identifiers
- Set out the purpose of the conversation
- Gain consent to proceed

Main Consultation

- Determines PC and HOPC quick SOCRATES
- PMH: any recent visits to hospital
- Determines social history: who is at home, employment, alcohol, substance abuse, smoking, children
- Picks up on verbal cues regarding child custody
- Determines whether partner has ever been abusive towards her
- Determine the type of abuse: verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, financial
- Determine the extent of abuse: required hospitalisation?
- Determine if patient feels safe at home
- Determine mental health symptoms: low mood, lack of energy, not wanting to do things,
- Thank patient for sharing this with you.
- Ask if they would like any help from the police? Suggest everything within this conversation will stay confidential.
- Once patient refuses any immediate help: enquire if any friends and family are aware, if in case of an emergency is she able to go to someone's elses house, suggest packing an emergency bag and phone in case she thinks her life is in danger, take photos and document any abuse for the future, enquire about financial resources, contact organisations such as womens aid.
- Listens attentively uses person centres approach
- Responds well to cues, verbal and non-verbal.
- Is empathetic, sensitive and compassionate considers the needs of the patient
- Does not blame the patient

Closing:

End consultation with a summary of the discussion and safety netting.

Questions:

- 1) What is confidentiality?
- Patients legal right to have any information they share with their doctor remain private.
- 2) When in this instance may breaking confidentiality have been acceptable?
- if she had any children in the house then you would have gotten safeguarding team involved

Global Impression:

Patient Impression/comments:

- Excellent
- Good
- Pass
- Borderline
- Fail