

## **Cancer care – Candidate instructions**

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

Steve Smith 64 year old has been referred with breathlessness. They have a previous diagnosis bowel 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:**

### **0-10 mins**

- 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

From 3 weeks ago

Oncology  
department

Steve Smith  
64 Zoo Lane  
Leicester  
LE21XX

Dear Doctor,

Diagnosis: Stage 4 Bowel Cancer

I have reviewed Steve in clinic today. He says he is feeling more tired than usual and struggling to cope at home along with his wife. Otherwise, he is well. I have therefore referred him to social services for an at home assessment for community care.

Investigations: In the past have shown he has an inoperable stage 4 cancer and therefore is under the palliative care team.

Follow up: 1 month's time

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Lemon

## **Cancer care – Patient instructions**

Presenting complaint: I have been struggling with breathing for last week or so and I get out of breath very easily.

### History of presenting complaint:

Before I could walk to the shops down the road and now I can't even walk around the house without getting breathless.

I am still feeling tired and it has got worse actually.

I don't have a fever

I have developed a cough for last couple of days – no phlegm but did notice some blood this morning that's why came in.

No I don't have any chest pain.

Other relevant symptoms: My bowels are the same as they have been since my diagnosis. I occasionally get some blood in them.

ICE: Have I got some sort of infection? Is it something worse? (if probed then reveal worried about cancer spreading) Get a scan or something?

PMH: Bowel cancer – stage 4, hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, High cholesterol, had a melanoma about 5 years ago which was cut out.

DHx: Ramipril, Metformin and some other medication that I forgot the name to, Atorvastatin and some pain medications – paracetamol for my back pain.

FHx: My mum had breast cancer. Nothing apart from that.

SHx: I smoke 10 cigarettes a day for as long as I can remember. Occasionally have a drink on special occasions.

Systems review: Otherwise fine.

### Other relevant history or instructions for actor:

Confirm details about last oncology appointment and say social service are due to come see house next week.

## 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 PMH	
Asks about DHx	
Asks about FHx, SHx and other history if relevant	
Summaries and clarifies	
Correctly answers examiners questions	

### Please fill out NEWs giving patient NEWs score of 0

What is your most likely diagnosis and why?

Lung Metastases – justifies with relevant info from history

What examination would you like to perform and what would you find?

Respiratory examination – may find dullness on percussion and reduced chest expansion or reduced lung sounds or side of tumour.

What is the most important investigation you would like to order?

Chest X-ray

## Investigation results:



Case courtesy of David Cuete, <a href="https://radiopaedia.org/?lang=gb">Radiopaedia.org</a>. From the case <a href="https://radiopaedia.org/cases/24723?lang=gb">rID: 24723</a>

Introduces themselves and confirms patient details	
Puts patient at ease and shows empathy	
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Address ICE	
Asks about PMH	
Asks about DHx	
Asks about FHx, SHx and other history if relevant	
Summaries and clarifies	

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	
Summarises and allows time for questions	

NEWS key		FULL NAME																							
0 1 2 3		DATE OF BIRTH								DATE OF ADMISSION															
		DATE				TIME								DATE				TIME							
<b>A+B</b> Respirations <small>Breaths/min</small>	≥25									3												≥25			
	21-24									2												21-24			
	18-20																					18-20			
	15-17																					15-17			
	12-14																					12-14			
	9-11									1												9-11			
≤8									3												≤8				
<b>A+B</b> SpO <sub>2</sub> Scale 1 <small>Oxygen saturation (%)</small>	≥96									1												≥96			
	94-95																					94-95			
	92-93									2												92-93			
	≤91									3												≤91			
<b>SpO<sub>2</sub> Scale 2*</b> <small>Oxygen saturation (%)</small> Use Scale 2 if target range is 95-97%, eg in hypoxic respiratory failure  *ONLY use Scale 2 under the direction of a qualified clinician	≥97 <sub>±</sub> O <sub>2</sub>									3												≥97 <sub>±</sub> O <sub>2</sub>			
	95-96 <sub>±</sub> O <sub>2</sub>									2												95-96 <sub>±</sub> O <sub>2</sub>			
	93-94 <sub>±</sub> O <sub>2</sub>									1												93-94 <sub>±</sub> O <sub>2</sub>			
	≥93 <sub>±</sub> SpO <sub>2</sub>																					≥93 <sub>±</sub> SpO <sub>2</sub>			
	88-92																					88-92			
	85-87									1												85-87			
	84-85									2												84-85			
≤83%									3												≤83%				
Air or oxygen?	A=Air																					A=Air			
	O <sub>2</sub> L/min									2												O <sub>2</sub> L/min			
	Device																					Device			
<b>C</b> Blood pressure <small>mmHg</small> Score uses systolic BP only	≥220									3												≥220			
	201-219																					201-219			
	181-200																					181-200			
	161-180																					161-180			
	141-160																					141-160			
	121-140																					121-140			
	111-120																					111-120			
	101-110									1												101-110			
	91-100									2												91-100			
	81-90																					81-90			
	71-80																					71-80			
	61-70									3												61-70			
	51-60																					51-60			
≤50																					≤50				
<b>C</b> Pulse <small>Breaths/min</small>	≥131									3												≥131			
	121-130									2												121-130			
	111-120																					111-120			
	101-110									1												101-110			
	91-100																					91-100			
	81-90																					81-90			
	71-80																					71-80			
	61-70																					61-70			
	51-60																					51-60			
	41-50									1												41-50			
31-40									3												31-40				
≤30																					≤30				
<b>D</b> Consciousness <small>Score for NEWS omit if confusion (no score if chronic)</small>	Alert																					Alert			
	Confusion																					Confusion			
	V																					V			
	P									3												P			
	U																					U			
<b>E</b> Temperature <small>°C</small>	≥39.1°									2												≥39.1°			
	38.1-39.0°									1												38.1-39.0°			
	37.1-38.0°																					37.1-38.0°			
	36.1-37.0°																					36.1-37.0°			
	35.1-36.0°									1												35.1-36.0°			
≤35.0°									3												≤35.0°				
<b>NEWS TOTAL</b>																						<b>TOTAL</b>			
Monitoring frequency																						Monitoring frequency			
Escalation of care Y/N																						Escalation of care Y/N			
Initials																						Initials			

