



Unit VIII The Clinical History

Communication Skills

Good communication between doctor and patient is vital in order to establish an accurate medical history. In the following pages we show several key sentences which can help you when interviewing a patient.

1. Greeting and introducing oneself:
 - Good morning, Mr. Lee. Come and sit down. I'm Dr. Vida.
 - Good afternoon, Mrs. Lafontaine. Take a seat, please.
2. Invitation to describe symptoms:
 - Well now, what seems to be the problem?
 - Well, how can I help you?
 - Would you please tell me how I can help you?
 - Your GP (general practitioner) says you've been having trouble with your right shoulder. Tell me about it.
 - My colleague Dr. Sanders says your left knee has been aching lately. Is that correct?
3. Instructions for undressing:
 - Would you mind taking off all your clothes except your underwear? (men).
 - Would you please take off all your clothes except your underwear and bra? (women).
 - You should take off your underwear too.
 - Lie on the couch and cover yourself with the blanket.
 - Lie on the stretcher with your shoes and socks off, please.
 - Roll your sleeve up, please, I'm going to examine your elbow.
4. Instructions for position on couch:
 - Lie down, please (supine position).
 - Lie on your tummy, please (prone position).
 - Please turn over and lie on your back again.
 - Roll over onto your right side.
 - Sit up and bend your knees.
 - Lean forward.
 - Get off the stretcher.