

Instructions to Candidate

This information is given to the candidate five minutes before beginning the interview. This is the only written material you will see. You should read these instructions carefully and repeatedly. They contain a varying amount of information about the patient including at least his/her name and age. Be sure to ask the coordinator about any matter that causes you concern or uncertainty.

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1. FORMAT

This is a simulated office situation, in which a physician will play the part of the patient. There will be one or more presenting problems, and you are expected to progress from there. You should not do a physical examination at this visit.

2. SCORING

You will be scored by the patient/examiner, according to specific criteria established for this case. We advise you not to try to elicit from the examiner information about your marks or performance, and not to speak to him or her "out of role."

3. TIMING

A total of 15 minutes is allowed for the examination. The role-playing physician is responsible for timing the examination. At 12 minutes, the examiner will inform you that you have three minutes remaining. During the final three minutes, you are expected to conclude your discussion with the patient/examiner.

At 15 minutes, the examiner will signal the end of the examination. You are expected to stop immediately, and to leave any notes with the examiner. In the event that you finish your interview before the 15 minutes have elapsed, you may leave the room.

4. THE PATIENT

You are about to meet Ms Margaret O'Brien, age 55, who is new to your practice.

SPECIAL NOTE

Because the process of problem identification and problem management plays an important part in the score, it is in the best interest of all candidates that they not discuss the case among themselves.