



Focus on History Taking

Presenting Complaint

An illness or Medical condition

How can I help you?

What can I do for you?

What seems to be the trouble?

We have five kinds of History:

1- History of present illness:

- Can you describe the pain?
- When did you first notice these symptoms?

2- Past medical history:

- Have you ever been hospitalised?
- Are taking any treatment at the moment?

3- Family history :

- Are both your parents alive and well?
- Do you have a family history of...? (Colon) for example.
- Does anyone else in your family suffer from this problem?

4- Social history :

- Do you drink/ smoke/ do any sport?
- Have you travelled abroad recently?

5- Occupational history:

- What is your job?
- Are you in contact with any toxic substances?

Pharmacology

I. History:

- Do you take any:

- Prescribed medication
- Over- the counter medication (OTC)?
- Do you know the names of them?
- Do you have them with you?
- Show me the medicine containers?
- Can you show me your last prescription or a list of medications?

II. Allergies:

- Are you allergic to anything that you know of?
- What happens when you take this?
 - Anaphylaxis
 - Rash
 - Mouth swelling
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Choking sensation
 - Abdominal discomfort