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Patient Introduction Consent and Confidentiality

Practical 02 / Communication role-play

Aim

Introduce oneself, obtain consent to a supervised encounter and protect a patient's private information.

Principle

Consent is a voluntary process. The person must understand the purpose, who will participate and that they can stop a teaching encounter without loss of care.

Materials and Requirements

- Standardised patient and role-play brief
- Confidential documentation template

Procedure

1. Identify yourself as a student and explain the supervising team and purpose of the encounter.
2. Confirm how the person wants to be addressed and verify identity in the fictional encounter. Explain how long the activity will take and what the student will actually do.
3. Check language and communication needs, privacy and willingness to participate.
4. Ask whether the person would like an interpreter, support person or chaperone. Move sensitive conversation to a suitable space and protect the case sheet from others.

Continue with step 5 on the next page.

Procedure Continued

Patient Introduction Consent and Confidentiality

5. Seek explicit permission for the planned history or examination and explain that it can be paused or stopped.
6. Describe the sequence of the exam and what touch or exposure is involved. Invite questions and seek permission in the person's own words. Check again if the examination changes.
7. If permission is limited or withdrawn, pause, preserve privacy and restate what remains agreed. Communicate the decision to the supervisor respectfully.
8. Close by summarising, checking understanding and recording only the required de-identified learning details.
9. Use teach-back to confirm the agreed plan. Record the scope of permission and any limits in the appropriate case record, and use de-identified content for the learning note.

Precautions

• Avoid shared personal devices for patient images or notes.

• Arrange a trained interpreter or chaperone when appropriate.

Observations and Interpretation

Patient Introduction Consent and Confidentiality

Observations and Record

Item	What to record	What it tells you
Introduction	Student role and supervision	Supports informed participation
Consent	Voluntary choice and ability to stop	Respects autonomy
Documentation	Minimum necessary details	Protects confidentiality

Worked Example

A simulated patient agrees to talk but declines examination. Acknowledge the decision, continue only the permitted history and tell the supervisor.

Result and Interpretation

Demonstrate a respectful opening and closure with clear limits on the information recorded.

Viva Questions and Answers

Does consent to history cover an examination?

Seek consent for the specific activity.

Why use teach-back?

It shows whether the explanation was understood and where to clarify.

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