



OSCE Checklist: Alcohol History Taking

Opening the consultation	
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate
2	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role
3	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth
4	Explain the purpose of the consultation and gain consent
Screening tools	
5	Use an appropriate screening tool (e.g. AUDIT-C or CAGE)
Alcohol intake	
6	Ask the patient when they first noticed an increase in their alcohol intake and try to identify any factors that played a role in this
7	Assess the patient's current drinking pattern
8	Quantify the patient's alcohol intake
9	Ask about the patient's drinking behaviours
10	Ask if the patient has previously attempted to stop drinking
Impact of alcohol	
11	Screen for biological signs of dependence
12	Screen for psychological signs of dependence
13	Ask if alcohol has impacted the patient's relationships with others
14	Ask if alcohol has impacted the patient's job
15	Ask if the patient currently drives a vehicle
16	Ask what the patient's diet looks like on an average day and if they feel alcohol is negatively affecting it
17	Ask if the patient has ever had involvement of the police for alcohol-related issues
Psychological assessment	
18	Perform a brief assessment of the patient's current mood to identify signs of depression or other psychological issues
19	Screen for thoughts of self-harm or suicide
20	Screen for thoughts of harming others
Past medical history	
21	Ask if the patient has any medical conditions. If the patient does have a medical condition, you should gather more details to assess how well controlled the disease is and what treatment(s) the patient is receiving.
22	Ask if the patient has previously undergone any surgery or procedures (e.g. banding of oesophageal varices)

23	Ask if the patient has any allergies and if so, clarify what kind of reaction they had to the substance	
Drug history		
24	Ask if the patient is currently taking any prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies	
Social history		
25	Explore the patient's general social context	
26	Take a smoking history	
27	Ask about recreational drug use	
28	Ask about problematic gambling	
Closing the consultation		
29	Thank the patient for their time	
30	Offer leaflets about alcohol dependence and the negative health impact of alcohol	
31	Offer referral to an alcohol rehabilitation service if appropriate	
32	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
Key communication skills		
33	Active listening	
34	Summarising	
35	Signposting	

Read the full guide at
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