



OSCE Checklist: Gastrointestinal 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 that you'd like to take a history from the patient
5	Gain consent to proceed with taking a history
Presenting complaint	
6	Use open questioning to explore the patient's presenting complaint
History of presenting complaint	
7	Site: ask where the symptom is (if relevant)
8	Onset: clarify when the symptom first started and if it the onset was sudden or gradual
9	Character: ask the patient to describe how the symptom feels
10	Radiation: ask if the symptom moves anywhere else
11	Associated symptoms: ask if there are any other associated symptoms
12	Time course: ask how the symptom has changed over time
13	Exacerbating or relieving factors: ask if anything makes the symptom worse or better
14	Severity: ask how severe the symptom is on a scale of 0-10
15	Screen for other key gastrointestinal symptoms
16	Explore the patient's ideas, concerns and expectations
17	Summarise the patient's presenting complaint
Systemic enquiry	
18	Screen for relevant symptoms in other body systems
Travel history	
19	Take a travel history if relevant to the presenting complaint
Past medical history	
20	Screen for conditions that increase the risk of gastrointestinal disease
21	Ask about pre-existing gastrointestinal disease
22	Ask about other medical diagnoses, previous surgical history and procedures
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
Family history	
25	Ask if there is any family history of gastrointestinal disease
Social history	
26	Explore the patient's general social context (accommodation, who the patient lives with, how the patient manages with activities of daily living, care needs)
27	Take a smoking history
28	Take an alcohol history
29	Ask about recreational drug use
30	Ask about problematic gambling
31	Ask about exercise and diet
Closing the consultation	
32	Summarise the salient points of the history back to the patient and ask if they feel anything has been missed
33	Thank the patient for their time
34	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands
Key communication skills	
35	Active listening
36	Summarising
37	Signposting

Read the full guide at
[geekymedics.com](https://www.geekymedics.com)



Download our
[clinical skills app](#)