# OSCE Checklist: Rheumatological 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. Explore any pain the patient has using the SOCRATES acronym
8. Ask about rashes, skin lesions and nail changes
9. Screen for clinical features of autoimmune disorders (e.g. systemic sclerosis, SLE, Sjogren’s syndrome)
10. Ask about joint stiffness
11. Screen for clinical features of malignancy
12. Ask about joint swelling and sweats
13. Explore the patient’s ideas, concerns and expectations
14. Summarise the patient’s presenting complaint

## Systemic enquiry
15. Screen for relevant symptoms in other body systems

## Past medical and surgical history
16. Ask if the patient has any medical conditions including previous back problems
17. Ask if the patient has undergone any relevant surgical procedures
18. Ask if the patient has any allergies and if so, clarify what kind of reaction they had to the substance

## Drug history
19. Ask if the patient is currently taking any prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies

## Family history
20. Ask the patient if there is any family history of rheumatological disease

## Social history
21. Explore the patient’s general social context
22. Take a smoking history
23. Take an alcohol history
24. Ask about recreational drug use
25. Gather details about the patient’s occupation

**Closing the consultation**
26. Summarise the salient points of the history back to the patient and ask if they feel anything has been missed
27. Thank the patient for their time
28. Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands

**Key communication skills**
29. Active listening
30. Summarising
31. Signposting

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