



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	

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



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