# OSCE Checklist: Dermatological 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 about the location of the symptom
8. Onset: clarify when the symptom first started and if it the onset was sudden or gradual
9. Character: ask about the specific characteristics of the symptom
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 dermatological 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. Ask about travelling if relevant to the presenting complaint

## Past medical and surgical history

20. Ask if the patient has any medical conditions including previous back problems
21. Ask if the patient has undergone any relevant surgical procedures
22. Assess previous sun exposure
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 the patient if there is any family history of dermatological disease

## Social history

26 Explore the patient’s general social context
27 Take a smoking history
28 Take an alcohol history
29 Ask about recreational drug use
30 Gather details about the patient’s occupation

## Closing the consultation

31 Summarise the salient points of the history back to the patient and ask if they feel anything has been missed
32 Thank the patient for their time
33 Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands

## Key communication skills

34 Active listening
35 Summarising
36 Signposting