



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
[geekymedics.com](https://www.geekymedics.com)



Download our
[clinical skills app](#)