

University of Glasgow Medical School Volunteer Patient Programme

Example of simulated patient role play

Patient: Harold Prescott, Age: 44

You have come to see Dr Robertson for two things. You have recurrence of your indigestion which has troubled you on and off for a year or so. The doctor usually gives you a bottle (Gaviscon) for this that helps.

Your father (aged 72) is about to be discharged from hospital after having an operation for a stomach ulcer, which has turned out to be cancer. Your father has not been told the diagnosis and you and your mother (aged 70) do not want him to be told. That is why you want to speak to Dr Robertson.

Background information

- Occupation is a school teacher
- Live in a small bungalow near parents
- Wife also a teacher and two children
- Non drinker, 'Only vice' -smoke 20/day.

Main problems

- Worried about coping with father's illness if he becomes terminal
- Discontented with Dr Robertson because father had been attending for about 10 months with indigestion and getting bottles before a scope was arranged. 'If it had been picked up sooner he may have had a better chance'.
- Worried about your indigestion in case you have cancer.

The student will be asked to introduce him/herself as a medical student who has been asked to interview you before you see the doctor.