

Medicine Writing Week - Patrick Newton

Notes:

Mr Patrick Newton (born on 6 July 1989) is a patient in your General Practice.

Patient details:

Name: Mr Patrick Newton
Residence: 10 Ashwood Street, Stillwater
Social background: 25-year-old accountant, single, lives with parents

21 Feb 2015

Subjective

Presenting complaint:

Presentation with 4 month Hx of chronic mild diarrhoea & low-grade intermittent R lower quadrant abdo pain; lethargy, ↓appetite, ↓weight (3kg in 4 months)

Social/family Hx:

Smokes 10-15 cigarettes per day
 Regular squash player
 Uncle has Crohn's disease
 ↑↑Anxiety and embarrassment relating to symptoms and impact on social participation:
 – dietary modification unsuccessful in alleviating symptoms
 – recently stopped attending Friday evening squash matches with work colleagues
 – has not sought medical advice until now (has attempted to self-manage illness by diet and OTC pain relief)

Past medical Hx:

6 month Hx low-grade intermittent joint pain in R & L wrists

Medications:

OTC Ibuprofen 200-400mg, 3 or 4 times a day (as required)
 No known allergies

Objective

T – 36.4°C; P – 80 (regular); Ht – 175cm; Wt – 79kg
 Abdomen – generalised tenderness, no HSmegaly (enlargement of liver and spleen)
 Cardiovascular & resp examination – normal
 Urinalysis – normal
 FBE ↑ WCC $11.1 \times 10^9/L$
 ↓ RCC $4.0 \times 10^{12}/L$
 ↓ Hb 125g/L
 Faecal occult blood test – positive
 Mildly elevated CRP (13mg/L) and ESR (14mm/hr)

Assessment:

?Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
 ?Crohn's disease/ulcerative colitis (UC)
 No urgent systemic signs

Plan:

Advise on smoking cessation
 Counsel on IBD & likely investigations
 Refer to gastroenterologist for diagnosis & assessment

Writing Task:

Using the information given in the case notes, write a letter of referral to gastroenterologist, Dr Jack Thomas, seeking his advice on diagnosis and assessment. Address the letter to: Dr Jack Thomas, Department of Gastroenterology, City Hospital, Main Road, Stillwater.

Write an introduction and send to paul@set-english.com

Planning

- 1) **Who is the recipient?** gastroenterologist
- 2) **What do they already know?** stomach/digestive experts / medical & technical language / don't know the patient
- 3) **What do they need to learn?** build-up of symptoms/signs, investigations, patient history, family history
- 4) **Why am I writing today?** Patient presented today - subjective & objective findings point to possible diagnoses - need expert opinion
- 5) **Is it urgent?** No

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: Patrick Newton • General medical context: signs suggestive of IBD • General medical request: diagnosis & assessment
Timeline 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current condition - presenting complaint: Presentation with 4 month Hx of chronic mild diarrhoea & low-grade intermittent R lower quadrant abdo pain; lethargy, ↓appetite, ↓weight (3kg in 4 months) - objective findings - summary inc. abdomen / FBE / faecal occult blood test/ CRP & ESR - Diagnosis: * include here or in request paragraph ?Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) ?Crohn's disease/ulcerative colitis (UC) No urgent systemic signs
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social / medical history - Recent history: 6 month Hx low-grade intermittent joint pain in R & L wrists Medications: OTC Ibuprofen 200-400mg, 3 or 4 times a day (as required) No known allergies - summary of recent events, inc. ↑↑Anxiety and embarrassment relating to symptoms and impact on social participation: – dietary modification unsuccessful in alleviating symptoms – recently stopped attending Friday evening squash matches with work colleagues – has not sought medical advice until now (has attempted to self-manage illness by diet and OTC pain relief) family history: – Uncle has Crohn's disease
Request	<p style="text-align: center;">Advise on smoking cessation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform: Counsel on IBD & likely investigations • Diagnosis: * include here or in timeline paragraph ?Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) ?Crohn's disease/ulcerative colitis (UC) No urgent systemic signs • Request: Refer to gastroenterologist for diagnosis & assessment

Timeline 2/Current condition paragraphs - Send to paul@set-english.com

Introductions

What goes wrong with introductions?

- too much detail - dates, symptoms, specific investigations, request detail
- not enough detail regarding purpose/ purpose not included
- unclear purpose
- inaccurate purpose
- grammar/punctuation issues
- spelling

Teacher	Student
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Patrick Newton, who visited our clinic today due to 4 months history of chronic mild diarrhea, lethargy, loss of appetite and weight loss. He is being referred to you and requires your further assesment and evaluation.</p>	<p>I am writing regarding Mr Patrick Newton, who visited our clinic today due to 4 months history of chronic mild diarrhoea, lethargy, loss of appetite and weight loss. He is being referred to you and requires your further assessment and evaluation.</p> <p>too much information - leave the symptom details for the timeline build-up</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr. Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you and now he requires your further assessment and definitive diagnosis.</p>	
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Newton, a 25-year-old accountant, who requires further assessment and confirmatory diagnosis for his lower GIT symptoms.</p>	<p>be careful. I'm not an expert but if 'lower' is not mentioned in the case notes then you don't need to mention it.</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr.Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatuar bowel disease. He is being referred to you and requires your diagnosis and assessment.</p>	<p>I am writing regarding Mr.Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you and requires your diagnosis and assessment.</p>
<p>Dr Jack Thomas Department of Gastroenterology City Hospital Main Road Stillwater</p> <p>21 February 2015</p> <p>Dear Dr Thomas,</p> <p>Re: Mr Patrick Newton, aged 25</p> <p>Thank you for seeing Mr Patrick Newton, who presented with signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you for your advice regarding his diagnosis and assessment.</p>	

<p>I am writing regarding to refer Mr Patrick Newton, who presented with signs and symptoms suggesting of inflammatory bowel disease. She now requires assessment to confirm the diagnosis, and advice for management.</p>	<p>I am writing regarding / to refer Mr Patrick Newton, who presented with signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He now requires assessment to confirm the diagnosis, and advice for management.</p> <p>- you'd lose marks for Purpose here. Be 100% accurate with the request.</p>
<p>Thank you for seeing Mr Newton, whose clinical features are suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease or Crohn's disease. He is being referred to your care for further assessment and treatment.</p>	
<p>Thank you for seeing Mr Newton a 25-year-old man, who presented with signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease, I would appreciate your advice on diagnoses and assessment.</p>	<p>Thank you for seeing Mr Newton, a 25-year-old man, who presented with signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease and requires diagnosis and assessment.</p> <p>Be careful with commas! They can only be used in certain ways to separate clauses:</p> <p>Although I am tall, I am poor at basketball.</p> <p>Having eaten his breakfast, Paul felt amazing.</p> <p>Paul, who lives in Australia, is a teacher.</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Patrick Newton, who presented with symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you and requires your further assessment.</p>	
<p>I am writing to refer Mr Patrick Newton, who presented to our clinic due to gastrointestinal symptoms. He now requires a definite diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease and further assessment.</p>	<p>I am writing to refer Mr Patrick Newton, who presented to our clinic due to gastrointestinal symptoms. He now requires a definite diagnosis and further assessment.</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Patrick Newton, who visited our clinic due to symptoms and signs suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you and now requires your diagnosis and assessment.</p>	
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Newton, who visited our clinic due to symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you for diagnosis and assessment.</p>	
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you and now requires advice on diagnosis and assessment.</p>	<p>I am writing regarding Mr Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you and now requires diagnosis and assessment.</p>
<p>I am writing to refer Mr Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. Your advice on diagnosis and assessment would be highly appreciated.</p>	<p>I am writing to refer Mr Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. Your diagnosis and assessment is required.</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Newton, whose signs and symptoms are suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to your facility and now requires further assessment and evaluation.</p>	<p>Be careful about using the word 'facility'.</p>

<p>I'm writing regarding Mr. Newton, who presented with symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease, and now requires your further assessment and investigation.</p>	
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Thomas ,who presented to our clinic due to chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain together with melena during a four months period. He is being referred to you and requires your further assessment and evaluation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too much information - symptoms, periods of time etc - Name! Get it right!
<p>I'm writing regarding Mr. Newton, who presented to our hospital with complaints of chronic mild diarrhea, and low- grade intermittent R lower quadrant abdominal pain since 4months ago. He is being referred to you for your assessment and diagnosis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too much information - symptoms, periods of time etc
<p>25 year old Patrick Newton is a patient of mine presenting with chronic mild diarrhoea and low grade intermittent right lower quadrant abdominal pain. I wanted to refer to you as a gastroenterologist for diagnosis because of the signs of inflammatory bowel disease.</p>	<p>25 year old Patrick Newton is a patient of mine presenting with signs suggestive of IBD. I am referring him for diagnosis and assessment.</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Newton, who visited our clinic recently due to signs and symptoms suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease. He is being referred to you and now requires further assessment for the diagnosis.</p>	<p>I am writing regarding Mr Newton, who visited our clinic recently due to signs and symptoms suggestive of IBD. He is being referred to you for assessment and diagnosis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - symptoms - subjective - signs - objective - clinical features - both
<p>Thank you for seeing Mr. Patrick Newton, 25 year old account, who visited our clinic with symptoms suggestive of Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Your assessment and diagnosis is greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>Thank you for seeing Mr. Patrick Newton, a 25-year-old accountant, who visited our clinic with symptoms suggestive of Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Your assessment and diagnosis is required.</p> <p>inaccurate condition</p>
<p>I am writing to refer Mr Newton, who has signs and symptoms suggestive of IBD. He now requires a definitive diagnosis and assessment.</p>	