

OET Writing Week

Medicine - James Smith

The task is: *Write a letter to a healthcare professional requesting continuation of care for a patient.*

Planning

10 - 15 minutes:

- Find the purpose
- Identify the case notes you will use
- Organise the case notes into logical paragraphs

What is the situation after the above steps?

I can focus on writing = Perfect circumstances in which to write a letter

Identifying Purpose & Choosing Case Notes:

Ask yourself these questions about James Smith:

1. Who is the reader?	surgeon
2. What is the reader's task?	review for suitability of double lung transplant
3. Does the reader know the patient?	no
4. Does the writer have any tasks?	1) refer to physio / dietitian 2) paint a picture – patient's current condition, treatment & background: to support the idea of a transplant
5. Why am I writing <u>today</u> ?	Acute care finished but....general situation worsening
6. Is it urgent?	No

Assume that today's date is 17 February 2019

You are a doctor working in the Respiratory Unit at Bridgeford General Hospital. A patient, Mr James Smith, has been sent from the ED (Emergency Department) with acute respiratory symptoms.

PATIENT DETAILS:

Name: James Smith
DOB: 26 Oct 2004
Next of kin: Mother, Bridget (56 y/o)

Social background:

High school student. Sedentary - no sports, spends many hours at computer.

Family history: Mother: hypothyroidism, rhinitis
Father: deceased (lung cancer 54 y/o)

Medical history: Symptomatic focal epilepsy
Chronic sinus infections
Cystic fibrosis (2006) – poor growth
Healthy diet but overweight (BMI 28.5)
No allergies

Current medications:

Phenytoin 100 mg 3 x daily (anti-seizure)
Panadol Rapid (paracetamol 500 mg) / 6h
Pulmozyme (dornase alfa), 2.5 mg b.i.d (breaks down sputum)
Creon (Lipase-Protease-Amylase), 4 x caps with food (pancreatic enzymes)

Admission: 02 Feb 2019

Presenting factors:

Severe dyspnoea (SOB), coughing, hypoxia (lack of oxygen), hemoptysis (coughing up blood), fever, headache, facial pain.

Treatment record:

- 02 Feb 2019** VS: BP: 116/78 mmHg, HR: 82, RR: 18, T: 36.5 C
hydrated; O2 sats = 80%
Erythematous oropharynx (red tongue & throat)
↑ breathing rate (30 breaths/minute)
Sonorous wheeze (indicates lung blockage) & bibasilar crackles (sound at base of lung – indicates mucus/fluid)
Treatment: Ampicillin sulbactam (antibiotic) – Lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)? bacterial sinusitis?, and supplemental oxygen.
- 03 Feb 2019** Pt. stable
Chest x-ray: pleural effusion & pneumonia
CT scan: chronic sinusitis (paranasal sinus)
Treatment: azithromycin (500 mg p.o., q.d. (reduce to 250 mg)) (antibiotic), ciprofloxacin (500 mg p.o., 12 hourly) (antibiotic).
- 17 Feb 2019** Satisfactory clinical recovery
Antibiotics finished
↑ likelihood lung infections & ↑ frequency
Discussion regarding ↓ time in school, ↑ hospital visits: home-schooling?
- Discharge plan:** Physio – airway clearance technique (q.d./prn)
Dietitian - ↑ exercise, improve/discuss diet
Double lung transplant suitability - explore with surgeon

Writing Task:

Using the information in the case notes, write a letter to Dr Stark for review of Mr James Smith. Address the letter to Dr G Stark, Surgeon, Department of Thoracic Medicine, Smithtown Hospital, Smithtown.

In your answer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10ubPGer-uuDNKB5Z1P-At1nPoSibVru8/view?usp=sharing>

relevant – related directly to the situation

appropriate – will the reader understand it

necessary – does the reader need to know it to do the task you are asking?

Paragraph Plan

Suggested paragraph plan:

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient name • General medical context • General request
Background	<p>Social background: High school student. Sedentary - no sports, spends many hours at computer.</p> <p>Medical history: Symptomatic focal epilepsy Chronic sinus infections Cystic fibrosis (2006) – poor growth Healthy diet but overweight (BMI 28.5) No allergies</p> <p>Current medications: Phenytoin 100 mg 3 x daily (anti-seizure) Panadol Rapid (paracetamol 500 mg)/ 6h Pulmozyme (dornase alfa), 2.5 mg b.i.d (breaks down sputum) Creon (Lipase-Protease-Amylase), 4 x caps with food (pancreatic enzymes)</p> <p>• summarise</p>
Timeline	<p>Admission: 02 Feb 2019</p> <p>Presenting factors: Severe dyspnoea (SOB), coughing, hypoxia (lack of oxygen), hemoptysis (coughing up blood), fever, headache, facial pain.</p> <p>Treatment record:</p> <p>02 Feb 2019 VS: BP: 110/70 mmHg, HR: 82, RR: 18, T: 36.5 C hydrated; O2 sats = 80% Erythematous oropharynx (red tongue & throat) ↑ breathing rate (30 breaths/minute) ← summarise Sonorous wheeze (indicates lung blockage) & bibasilar crackles (sound at base of lung – indicates mucus/fluid) Treatment: Ampicillin-sulbactam (antibiotic) Lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)? bacterial sinusitis?, and supplemental oxygen.</p> <p>03 Feb 2019 Pt. stable Chest x-ray: pleural effusion & pneumonia ✓ CT scan: chronic sinusitis (paranasal sinus) Treatment: azithromycin (500 mg p.o., q.d. (reduce to 250 mg)) (antibiotic), ciprofloxacin (500 mg p.o., 12 hourly) (antibiotic) ← summarise</p> <p>17 Feb 2019 Satisfactory clinical recovery ✓ Antibiotics finished ✓</p>
Request	<p>↑ likelihood lung infections & ↑ frequency ✓ Discussion regarding ↓ time in school, ↑ hospital visits: home-schooling? ✓</p> <p>Discharge plan: Physio – airway clearance technique (q.d./prn) ✓ Our task Dietitian - ↑ exercise, improve/discuss diet ✓ Double lung transplant suitability - explore with surgeon ✓</p>

Make a plan – and write a timeline paragraph. Send to Paul: paul@set-english.com

Introductions

Student	Teacher
<p>I am writing regarding Mr James Smith, a 15-year-old student, who is being discharged from the respiratory unit following recovery from an acute respiratory symptoms infection as he is a known case of cystic fibrosis. He requires further review ing and assessment of the suitability of a double lung transplant.</p>	<p>Don't say 'a known case of' – not patient-centred</p> <p>Just say 'he has cystic fibrosis'</p>
<p>Dr G stark Surgeon, department of thoracic medicine, Smith hospital, Smith town</p> <p>17 February 2019</p> <p>Dear, Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith DOB: 26 October 2004,</p> <p>Thanks for seeing Mr James Smith, a 15 year old high school student, who is a known case of cystic fibrosis, he is being admitted to our clinic due to respiratory symptoms, he requires assessment for suitability of double lung transplant surgery.</p>	<p>Don't say 'a known case of' – not patient-centred</p> <p>Just say 'he has cystic fibrosis'</p> <p>You cannot just add new clauses to a sentence without the correct linking devices.</p> <p>he is being – that means it is happening now</p>
<p>Dr.G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital, Southtown</p> <p>17 th February 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr.Stark , Re: Mr James Smith D.O.B : 26, October,2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr James Smith, who has pneumonia cystic fibrosis and chronic sinusitis, and requires your further review with of a double lung transplant possibility.</p>	

<p>Thank you for seeing James, who has had recurrent respiratory infections due to cystic fibrosis. He is being discharged today and would requires your assessment for double lung transplantation suitability.</p>	<p>We don't know how many infections he has had.</p>
<p>Dr G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital Smithtown</p> <p>17th February 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith, DOB:26th October 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr James Smith, who was diagnosed with pleural effusion and pneumonia, and now requires your review.</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis? double lung transplant suitability? has recovered from?</p> <p>If we focus on the diagnosis of pleural effusion and pneumonia here then it gives the impression immediately that he still has these problems.</p>
<p>Dr G Stark</p> <p>Surgeon</p> <p>Department of Thoracic Medicine</p> <p>Smithtown Hospital</p> <p>Smithtown</p> <p>17th February 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith, DOB: 26th October 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who has cystic fibrosis. He is being referred to you for a review of double lung transplant suitability.</p>	
<p>17th February 2019</p>	

<p>Dr G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital Smithtown</p> <p>Re: James Smith , DOB: 26th October 2004</p> <p>Dear Dr, I am writing regarding Mrs James Smith, who was transferred to our hospital from emergency department with acute respiratory symptoms. He is stable now but his condition is becoming chronic. Due to that he requires a review for double lung transplant suitability.</p>	<p>Discussing the move from ED to Respiratory Ward should be in timeline – if you need to mention it. His condition is becoming chronic – that seems a bit vague. Why not mention cystic fibrosis here?</p>
<p>I am writing to refer Mr smith who was admitted to our hospital due to pneumonia and now requires your further review and assessment for double lung transplantation.</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis? has recovered from?</p> <p>If we focus on the diagnosis of pleural effusion and pneumonia here then it gives the impression immediately that he still has these problems.</p>
<p>I am writing to refer Mr Smith, who is recovering from a recent pneumonia attack associated with cystic fibrosis, for assessment of a bilateral lung transplant suitability.</p>	<p>Nice!</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who is at high risk of frequent lung infections. He now requires a review of his suitability for double lung transplantation</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis? ...but good effort.</p>
<p>I am writing regarding Mr Lames Smith, who was admitted to the respiratory unit due to acute respiratory symptoms, for treatment. He is ready to be discharged today and requires assessment for further management.</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis? Punctuate your non-defining relative clauses. Additionally, try not to make your mid-sentence relative clauses so long. Compare to this:</p> <p>I am writing to refer Mr James Smith, who was admitted to the respiratory unit due to acute respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>Also, the purpose is too vague here – what about the transplant suitability?</p>
<p>Dr G Stark Department of thoracic medicine Smithtown hospital Smithtown 17th February 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr G-Stark</p>	

<p>Re: Mr James Smith , DOB : 26th October 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who was admitted to our hospital recently due to his acute respiratory symptoms. He is being referred to you and now he requires your assessment for his condition if it suitable for double lung transplant.</p>	<p>Better to focus on his recovery from infection instead of his admission.</p>
<p>17 February 2019</p> <p>Dr G Stark Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital, Smithtown</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith, DOB: 26 October 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr James Smith, who was admitted to our Respiratory Unit due to acute respiratory symptoms suggestive of lower respiratory tract infection. He is scheduled to be discharged today, and now requires your conformity evaluation for double lung transplant.</p>	<p>Why mention the admission in the intro? Suggestive of – He was treated for infection, so we now know it isn't suggestive of. Strange focus for a summary. conformity evaluation?</p>
<p>I am writing to refer Mr Smith, who is susceptible to frequent lung infections due to having cystic fibrosis and requires your review regarding suitability of double lung transplantation.</p>	<p>Yes!</p>
<p>Dr G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital Smithtown</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith, DOB 26 Oct 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who has been treated for acute respiratory symptoms, and requires your review for double lung transplant suitability.</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis? Nice writing style.</p>

<p>I am writing regarding Mr James Smith ,who has cystic fibrosis and at risk of frequent lung infections ,your review for his suitability of double lung transplant is highly appreciated.</p>	<p>I am writing regarding Mr James Smith ,who has cystic fibrosis and is at risk of frequent lung infections. Your review of his suitability for a double lung transplant is highly appreciated.</p>
<p>Dr. G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital Smithtown 17 February, 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr. Stark, Re: Mr. James Smith DOB: 26 October, 2004</p> <p>I am writing this letter regarding Mr. Smith, who is at high risk of lung infection. Now he is being referred to you for a review of his suitability for double lung transplantation</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis?</p>
<p>Dr G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital Smithtown</p> <p>17th February 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith, DOB: 26th October 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who was admitted to our hospital due to exacerbated symptoms of cystic fibrosis. He is due to be discharged and now requires your review of his condition.</p>	<p>double lung transplant suitability?</p>
<p>Dr G. Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smith Town Hospital Smith Town</p> <p>17th February 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr. Stark,</p> <p>Ref: Mr. James Smith, DOB : 26th October 2004</p>	<p>Yes!</p>

<p>I am writing to refer Mr. James Smith, who was admitted to our hospital due to pneumonia associated with cystic fibrosis. He now requires your review for the suitability of double lung transplantation.</p>	
<p>17th February 2019 Dr G Stark Lung surgeon Department of Thoracic medicine Smithtown hospital, Smithtown Re: Mr James Smith DOB: 26th October 2004</p> <p>I am writing to refer Mr Smith, who was admitted into our hospital on the 2nd February 2019 with a high frequency of lung infection. Now he requires a review of his suitability for double lung transplant.</p>	<p>We don't know how often he has had lung infections – this could be the first one!</p>
<p>17 Feb 2019</p> <p>Dr G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital Smithtown</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith, DOB 26 Oct 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who has been treated for acute respiratory symptoms, and requires your review for double lung transplant suitability.</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis?</p>
<p>Dr G Stark Thoracic surgeon Department of thoracic medicine Smithtown Hospital</p> <p>17th February 2019 Dear Dr G Stark Re: Mr James Smith DOB: 26th October 2004</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis?</p>

<p>I am writing to refer Mr James Smith, who has been experiencing signs and symptoms of recurrent bilateral lung infections. He requires a review for possible double lung transplantation.</p>	
<p>Dr G Stark Surgeon Department of Thoracic Medicine Smith town Hospital Smithtown</p> <p>17.02.2019</p> <p>Re:Mr James Smith, DOB:26.10.2004</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who was admitted to our hospital with cystic fibrosis. He is due to be discharged in a satisfactory conditions, and he requires your further assessment for a double lung transplant treatment.</p>	<p>Was he admitted with cystic fibrosis? I think it was an infection.</p> <p>But....what's important is not why he was admitted but that he is recovering from an infection associated with cystic fibrosis.</p>
<p>Dr G stark Surgeon Department of thoracic medicine Smithtown hospital Smithtown</p> <p>17/02/2019</p> <p>Re: Mr James Smith DOB 26/10/2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who was admitted to our hospital for having acute respiratory symptoms. Due to the likelihood of him having increased and frequent lung infections, he is referred to you for exploring the suitability of his double lung transplantation.</p>	<p>cystic fibrosis?</p>
<p>Dr G Stark Surgeon</p>	

<p>Department of Thoracic Medicine Smithtown Hospital</p> <p>Smithtown</p> <p>Date: 17 February 2019</p> <p>Dear Dr Stark,</p> <p>Re: James Smith, DOB: 26 October 2004</p> <p>I am writing regarding Mr Smith, who has cystic fibrosis and was recently admitted to our hospital with severe chest infection. Your review for suitability of double lung transplant is required.</p>	<p>Great content! Careful with punctuation and passive!</p>
<p>Re: James Smith, DOB 26/ 10/2004</p> <p>I am writing to refer Mr Smith, who has deteriorating cystic fibrosis, for a review of his suitability for double lung transplantation.</p>	<p>Interesting approach! Good work.</p>