

Appropriateness (Type 1)

● Example Question 1:

C (Inappropriate, but not awful)

Explanation: It is clear that both Mr. Tan and his wife are anxious about Mr. Tan's condition and want to know about the results of the scan. This option initiates discussion between Mr. Tan, Yusuf, and Mr. Tan's wife, and thus is inappropriate. The discussion should be between Mr. Tan and Yusuf, and Mr. Tan's wife may be included only with the consent of Mr. Tan. This plan of action bypasses obtaining aforementioned consent. However, it does not reveal details about prognosis or diagnosis so is not an awful course of action.

Feedback: This scenario tests primarily the student's ability to recognize patient confidentiality and that it should be the patient's decision whether he would like family members present at this point in the discussion. Terminal patients may not want family members to know the prognosis of their condition. It also tests the student's ability to recognize that official interpreters are necessary, and family members are not to be used if possible, in the communication with a patient with a non-English speaking background.

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● Example Question 2: B (Appropriate, but not ideal)

Explanation: This option is appropriate in that it recognizes the importance that the patient receives the information first before they can decide whether they want family members to know of the details. However, not all terminal patients may want their wife out of the room and if they consent to it, having external support for tough discussions like these can help. Therefore, it is more ideal to communicate with Mr. Tan regarding his wishes of whether his wife remains in the room or not, rather than speak to him directly about the results of the test with the wife absent.

Feedback: This scenario tests primarily the student's ability to recognize patient confidentiality and that it should be the patient's decision whether he would like family members present at this point in the discussion. Terminal patients may not want family members to know the prognosis of their condition. It also tests the student's ability to recognize that official interpreters are necessary, and family members are not to be used if possible, in the communication with a patient with a non-English speaking background.

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● Example Question 3:

D (A very inappropriate thing to do)

Explanation: There are a variety of reasons why this course of action is inappropriate. Firstly, Yusuf cannot be sure whether Mr. Tan would like his wife to be present for this information. Secondly, to ensure clear and fair conversation of important issues between a health practitioner and the patient, family members are generally avoided for translation and the use of an official interpreter is preferred.

Feedback: This scenario tests primarily the student's ability to recognize patient confidentiality and that it should be the patient's decision whether he would like family members present at this point in the discussion. Terminal patients may not want family members to know the prognosis of their condition. It also tests the student's ability to recognize that official interpreters are necessary, and family members are not to be used if possible, in the communication with a patient with a non-English speaking background.

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Example Question 4:

A (A very appropriate thing to do)

Explanation: This is the best course of action as it targets both problems - the language barrier, and the ability to determine whether Mr. Tan would consent to the wife being present for the discussion of his diagnosis and prognosis.

Feedback: This scenario tests primarily the student's ability to recognize patient confidentiality and that it should be the patient's decision whether he would like family members present at this point in the discussion. Terminal patients may not want family members to know the prognosis of their condition. It also tests the student's ability to recognize that official interpreters are necessary, and family members are not to be used if possible, in the communication with a patient with a non-English speaking background.