

OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

WRITING SUB-TEST: NURSING

TIME ALLOWED: **READING TIME:** 5 MINUTES
WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes below and complete the writing task which follows.

Notes:

You are a nurse in the Outpatient Department of the Royal Hospital. A patient you are monitoring has requested transfer to the Springtown Community Health Centre.

Patient History

Name: Mr James Fox
Date of Birth: 20.10.1933

Current Medication: Pantoprazole 40mg mane for Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD)
Panadeine Forte (strong analgesic) 2 tablets q.i.d. p.r.n.
Amoxycillin 500mg t.d.s.

Social Background: Pt lives alone. Independent with activities of daily living (ADLs).
2 children (son local; daughter abroad).
Non-driver. Uses public transport. No family available to bring to appointments.

Relevant History for Surgical Procedure:

Height: 180cm; weight: 82kg; BMI: 25
Non-smoker
Dentures – upper & lower
GORD

17 January 2017:

- 4:30pm** Pt brought to Emergency Department by adult son. Dropped chainsaw on left hand while pruning trees. Automatic switch on chainsaw failed. Severe lacerations to left hand and forearm.
- 7:00pm** Pt seen by Dr Somner – tetanus injection given. Referred to plastic surgeon.
- 8:30pm** Assessment by plastic surgeon, Dr Mann – tendon to left index finger almost completely severed.
- Pt still very active and independent.
- Booked for surgery 18 January. No beds available in ward. Pt to go home and return 7am 18 January.
- Wound bandaged by nursing staff, analgesia provided.
Nil by mouth from midnight. Son will monitor.

18 January 2017: General anaesthesia given: IV propofol, remifentanyl, N₂O (inhaled), suxamethonium, metoclopramide, IV antibiotics – penicillin.

Surgical repair of tendon to left index finger, wound irrigation and washout, suturing of lacerations to dorsal aspect of left hand and forearm. Splint fitted to wear 24 hours/day.

Medication on discharge:

- Panadeine Forte 2 tablets q.i.d. p.r.n.
- Amoxycillin 500mg t.d.s.

29 January 2017:

Outpatients appointment – Pt attended alone. Travels by train – 1hr.
Non-compliant with splint – uncomfortable; believes "Not necessary. Just a few cuts". Appears unaware of severity of injuries.
Managing daily chores and activities alone (not resting hand).
Sutures removed from forearm.
New splint custom-made. Pt urged to use as directed.
R/V in 2 weeks.

12 February 2017:

Wounds healing well. Pt still unaware of seriousness of injuries, explained importance of compliance & possible adverse effects if non-compliant with splint & resting hand.
Pt requested to see doctor. Thinks nurses trying to frighten him.
Pt requested to be transferred to the care of a community health centre closer to his home.
Letter of transfer to Community Health Nurse – follow-up care required:

- change dressings regularly
- monitor progress of wounds
- encourage use of splint
- rest the hand

Writing Task:

Using the information in the case notes, write a letter to the Community Health Nurse, Springtown Community Health Centre, 852 Main Road, Springtown, where Mr Fox will be transferred for follow-up care.

In your answer:

- Expand the relevant notes into complete sentences
- Do not use note form
- Use letter format

The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.