

## Three Questions

**Instructor Notes:** This exercise may be done individually or in groups.

Time for completion (including discussion): 30 minutes

This exercise serves many purposes. Consider these as you facilitate:

You are integrating patient assessment and medical emergencies.

This is a good first scenario as you begin the medical emergencies section of your course. Ask students to think back to what they learned in patient assessment and in the at-home learning on medical emergencies to make their choices.

You are demonstrating to your students that not all history questions are alike. Some reveal a lot more information than others.

Ask your students if they believe a physician asks the same questions in the same order every time he or she enters an exam room. Or does the physician tailor the questions based on patient complaint and presentation? What about an experienced EMT or paramedic?

What are the benefits/risks of asking very relevant questions or taking too much time with irrelevant questions?

You are demonstrating that there can be varied opinions to the same end.

Have several students read their three questions or assessments. Note that they are not the same. This is very important: will it affect patient care or outcome? (NO!) And this is the point. Some questions are higher yield than others. The same for some physical exam techniques.

Ask students why they chose what they chose.

You are called to care for a 68 year old man who complains of chest pain. You arrive to find him responsive and oriented but in distress. His fist is to his chest and he has some noticeable difficulty breathing.

Considering this patient presentation and assuming all appropriate assessment and care has been given in the primary assessment, you will have the opportunity to ask the patient ONLY THREE questions or perform three assessment tasks (or a combination of the two).

Your goal is to choose the three BEST or MOST RELEVANT questions for the patient's condition in order to come to treatment decisions. You may not ask for "a history" but you may ask a specific component of the history or physical examination.

Please write your three questions below.

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