

ENGLISH FOR DOCTORS

ADVANCED COMMUNICATION SKILLS



ENGLISH LEVEL: B2 & C1
Upper-intermediate & advanced

UPDATED
FOR 2024/25

Communicating accurately and effectively is critical to the safety, care and wellbeing of patients.

This 120-hour, online course teaches the English that enables international doctors to deliver outstanding levels of practice and care, build strong relationships with patients and colleagues, and lead and participate in successful healthcare teams.

The course is designed for doctors and medical students with an upper-intermediate or advanced (B2 or C1) level of English who work or study in English.



“It could be a mandatory course before working in an English speaking country.”

Dr Simona Huica

“This is what we need in real life during work.”

Dr Rita Péntzes

“It was a brilliant course.”

Dr Mohammed Abu Allen



Course Content

Patient Admission

- Greeting a patient
- Clerking a patient
- Non-verbal communication
- Therapeutic listening
- Completing a patient admission form
- Writing a patient file note
- The body: anterior, posterior
- Wounds and burns

Interviewing a Patient

- The language used in healthcare
- Conducting patient interviews
- The Calgary – Cambridge Observation Guide
- Asking different types of questions
- Cardiovascular conditions
- Respiratory symptoms and conditions
- Describing strokes
- The body: the nose, head, face

Taking Observations

- Blood pressure and pulse
- Temperature
- Neurological changes
- Hospital charts: Early Warning Score
- The body: the arm, hands
- The body: skin, nails, hair

Past Medical History

- Patient centred care
- Allergies and adverse drug reactions
- Taking a sexual history
- Substance misuse
- Describing dementia
- Challenging behaviours in the elderly
- The body: the chest

Talking about Pain

- Types of pain
- Pain severity
- Pain location
- Using pain scales
- Chronic back pain
- The body: muscles, tendons, bones, ligaments

Examining a Patient

- Patient confidentiality
- Putting a patient at ease
- The female reproductive system
- Doing an internal examination
- Protecting vulnerable patients
- Writing GP letters

Explaining Tests

- Blood tests, taking a blood sample
- Radiological tests
- Testing for tuberculosis
- Cervical smear tests
- Taking a urine specimen
- Diabetes tests
- Hospital forms: pathology forms
- The body: the ears

Discussing a Diagnosis

- Discussing different diagnoses
- Discussing injuries
- Discussing IBS
- Infectious diseases and conditions
- Answering a bleep
- The body: intestines, abdomen
- The body: feet, ankles

Explaining Treatment

- Managing diabetes
- Managing constipation
- Managing urinary incontinence
- Managing asthma
- Stoma therapy
- Administering medications, PCA
- Hospital charts: controlled drugs, oxygen therapy
- Writing a discharge letter

Diabetes Care

- The pancreas
- Types of diabetes
- Asking about diabetes symptoms
- Asking about diabetes complications
- Testing for diabetes
- Talking about diabetes medication

Cardiovascular Care

- The heart
- Arrhythmias
- Coronary heart disease 1
- Coronary heart disease 2
- Heart failure
- Heart medication

Mental Health Care

- The brain
- Mental health conditions
- Depression
- Psychoses
- Anxiety disorders
- Acute confusion
- Mental health and young people

Discussing Surgery

- Surgical procedures
- Cosmetic surgery
- Hospital chart: VTE
- Arthritis
- The body: hips, thighs, legs
- The body: shoulders
- Using SBAR

Pre-operative Care

- Consent, infection control, MRSA
- Pre-operative investigations
- Assessing level of risk: anaesthesia
- Healthcare acquired infections
- The kidneys, fluid loss, dehydration
- Inserting an IV cannula
- IV fluids

Post-operative Care

- Giving a post-operative handover
- Endocrine disorders: subtotal thyroidectomy
- Wound infections
- Hospital charts: sepsis screening tool
- Suggesting lifestyle changes
- The body: mouth, eyes, the senses
- Writing a discharge letter

Oncology and End-of-Life Care

- Types of cancers
- Oncology and chemotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- The breast and breast cancer
- Cancer of the cervix
- Lung cancer
- Palliative care
- End-of-life care
- Hospital charts: DNAR orders

This course is accredited by the CPD Standards Office in the UK, whose professional qualifications are recognised worldwide. On course completion, learners receive an End-of-Course Achievement Certificate confirming **80 CPD points**.

Based at the University of Sussex in the UK, SLC is a world-leading Medical English training services provider. We work with medical universities, NHS Trusts, international healthcare recruitment companies, private healthcare groups, and thousands of individuals around the world.

