Clinical Foundations— Communication, Reasoning and Ethics

University Medicine · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
clinical foundations	**Clinical foundations** teach basic skills for talking to and examining patients.
presenting complaint	The **presenting complaint** is the main problem, in the patient's own words.
history of presenting complaint	The **history of presenting complaint** asks when the problem started and how it changed.
systems review	The **systems review** asks about symptoms the patient did not mention.
red flag	Weight loss with a cough is a **red flag**: act quickly.
inspection	**Inspection** means looking carefully before touching.
palpation	**Palpation** means feeling with the hands.
percussion	**Percussion** means tapping the body and listening to the sound.
auscultation	**Auscultation** means listening with a stethoscope.
differential diagnosis /ˌdɪfəˈrenʃl ˌdaɪəgˈnəʊsɪs/	The **differential diagnosis** is a list of possible causes, most likely first.
premature closure	**Premature closure** means deciding on a diagnosis too early.
teach-back	With **teach-back**, the patient explains the plan back to you.

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shared decision-making	In **shared decision-making**, doctor and patient choose together.
confidentiality /ˌkɒnfɪˌdenʃiˈæləti/	Doctors keep **confidentiality**: they do not share patients' information.
autonomy /ɔːˈtɒnəmi/	**Autonomy** means adults choose their own treatment.
beneficence	**Beneficence** means acting for the patient's good.
capacity /kəˈpæsɪti/	A patient with **capacity** can understand and make the decision.
Swiss cheese model	The **Swiss cheese model** shows how small failures line up to cause harm.
near-miss	A **near-miss** is a mistake that almost caused harm.
SBAR handover	An **SBAR handover** gives situation, background, assessment and recommendation.
screening	**Screening** tests healthy people to find disease early.
over-diagnosis	**Over-diagnosis** finds diseases that would never have caused harm.

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