

9th OET letter

Occupational English Test

WRITING SUB-TEST: MEDICINE

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

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

Notes:

You are a doctor working in the Respiratory Unit at Bridgeford General Hospital. A patient, Mr James Smith, has been sent from the ED with acute respiratory symptoms.

PATIENT DETAILS:

Name: James Smith
DOB: 26.10.2004
Next of kin: Mother, Bridget (56 y/o)

Social background:

High school student. Sedentary - no sports, spends many hours at computer.

Family history: Mother: hypothyroidism, rhinitis
Father: deceased (lung cancer 54 y/o)

Medical history: Symptomatic focal epilepsy
Chronic sinus infections
Cystic fibrosis (2006) – poor growth
Healthy diet but overweight (BMI 28.5)
No allergies

Current medications:

Phenytoin 100 mg 3 x daily (anti-seizure)
Panadol Rapid (paracetamol 500 mg)/ 6h
Pulmozyme (dornase alfa), 2.5 mg b.i.d (breaks down sputum)
Creon (Lipase-Protease-Amylase), 4 x caps with food (pancreatic enzymes)

Admission: 02.02.2019

Presenting factors:

Severe dyspnoea (SOB), coughing, hypoxia (lack of oxygen), hemoptysis (coughing up blood), fever, headache, facial pain.



Treatment record:

- 02.02.2019** VS: BP: 116/78 mmHg, HR: 82, RR: 18, T: 36.5 C
hydrated; O2 sats = 80%
Erythematous oropharynx (red tongue & throat)
↑ breathing rate (30 breaths/minute)
Sonorous wheeze (indicates lung blockage) & bibasilar crackles (sound at base of lung – indicates mucus/fluid)
Treatment: Ampicillin sulbactam (antibiotic) – Lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)? bacterial sinusitis?, and supplemental oxygen.
- 03.02.2019** Pt. stable
Chest x-ray: pleural effusion & pneumonia
CT scan: chronic sinusitis (paranasal sinus)
Treatment: azithromycin (500 mg p.o., q.d. (reduce to 250 mg)) (antibiotic), ciprofloxacin (500 mg p.o., 12 hourly) (antibiotic).
- 17.02.2019** Satisfactory clinical recovery
Antibiotics finished
↑ likelihood lung infections & ↑ frequency
Discussion regarding ↓ time in school, ↑ hospital visits: home-schooling?
- Discharge plan:** Physio – airway clearance technique (q.d./prn)
Dietitian - ↑ exercise, improve/discuss diet
Double lung transplant suitability - explore with surgeon

Writing Task:

Using the information in the case notes, write a letter to Dr Stark for review of Mr James Smith. Address the letter to Dr G Stark, Surgeon, Department of Thoracic Medicine, Smithtown Hospital, Smithtown.

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.