

Station 4

Candidate instructions:

You are an ED consultant working at a mixed tertiary ED on a Saturday evening.

Your next patient is Joshua, who is a 14 year old boy who has presented with a laceration to the left leg after jumping a fence when out with his mates. He presents with 3 other mates.

He lives with his dad who isn't present. He has been polite and well behaved and has given you all the details of his history accurately.

He is happy for you to go ahead and stitch his leg but he asks that you don't tell his father that he is here.

Your tasks:

- Discuss the issue with Joshua and organise a safe management and discharge plan.
- You will not need to examine Joshua in this station.

Domains tested:

- Medical expertise (30%)
- Communication (35%)
- Health advocacy (35%)

Role Player Instructions:

You are Joshua a 14yo boy. You have been out with your mates tonight and you were in the junk yard looking for scraps to build with when the guard dog chased you. Being the tallest, you helped the others over the fence before scrambling over yourself. You managed to rip open your leg on the way over and your mates convinced you that you needed to be seen.

You are very anxious that your dad doesn't know you have needed sutures. You were meant to be doing your history project at one of your mates but his mum was out and so you all snuck out. Your dad doesn't usually let you out on a school night and you reckon this will be the last time if he finds out. Where the cut is you can hide it with your shorts once it is fixed up.

You are very polite to the doctor hoping that they will just go ahead and fix you up. You give all your history accurately (just asthma as a child, nil allergies) and say you are happy to sign to have the procedure.

You beg them not to tell your Dad though. You are sure that you heard that at 14yo you could consent for yourself.

You should continue to argue until they agree. You gave the wrong number for your dad at triage so you are confident that they won't just call him without asking you.

You should agree to identify another adult to come and get you. You have an uncle that doesn't like how strict your dad is, he will surely pick you up.

Other than that you should be co-operative with everything that is asked of you.

EXPECTED ANSWER STRUCTURE

Prior to Entering

- Think about the history that is needed to risk stratify this presentation. Is it simple and will it be able to be closed without sedation. Work out whether there are any risks including other presentations including whether he has presented with risky behaviour before and whether anyone has had contact with the next of kin. (these are the medical expertise marks together with knowledge of the laws for consent for minors)
- Think of the issues that will be raised (mainly around consent to treatment (how this is to be determined as he is a minor and discharge issues) and the emotions that may need to be dealt with e.g. fear or frustration.
- Consider cultural and legal aspects (around guardianship and consent and any mandatory reporting requirements that may arise). (this is the health advocacy marks)
- Consider use of non-verbals: o Do not use jargon, keep tone low, empathetic expression. o Use eye contact, same level open posture.

Inside the Room

Introduction

- Re-introduce yourself.
- “We are planning to suture your leg without any sedation and I understand that you don’t want us to tell your dad that you are here and I was wondering why that is”.

Body

- Give him a chance to explain his views and empathise (paraphrase and echo).
- Explain your position: “That puts us in an awkward position as while you are now 14yo and can consent to treatment you are still a minor and have a guardian and it would be best for them to know”, “In addition, we need to discharge you into the care of an adult”.
- Discuss what needs to happen and answer any questions including outlining the procedure and discharge requirements.
- Explore options and alternative: Is there another guardian e.g. mum that you would be happy for us to contact?”, “If we allow your consent for the procedure then can you identify an adult to take you home”.
- Consider any legal factors: o Try to gauge whether there is a child safety issue if he is engaging in risky behaviour. Not likely in this case. o Clearly outline the guardianship issues involved including that you are not able to tell his parents without his consent at this age (provided you have met the competence criteria established in law for Gillick competence as has is between 14-18yo (Note SA and NSW law discusses concurrent consent between a parent and a child between ages 14-16). o Outline the issue about discharge into the care of an adult.

- Try and get a negotiated outcome that suits both you and him e.g. alternative guardian to discuss treatment with.

Closure

- Close discussion summarising the outcome including details of follow up/review of the wound and sutures (medical expertise) and safe discharge plan into the care of a responsible adult.
- Ask if he has any more questions.