

1. Lead examiner

Candidate Number:

2. Co-examiner

Final Mark:

SCENARIO: Communication

	Not Met	Partly Met	Fully Met
Rapport, Reassurance, Trust and Ethical Therapeutic Relationships			
Convey relevant information and explanations			
Develop a common understanding of diagnosis, prognosis and plan			
Convey effective oral information			
Appropriate non verbal communication			
Appropriate use of demeanour, language and words			
Identify and explore issues, including reasons for position			
Inform patient to facilitate understanding of situation (tailored to patient's demographic, cultural and intellectual context)			
Problem-solve			

ACTOR feedback:

Not Comfortable	Partially Comfortable	Fully Comfortable
-----------------	-----------------------	-------------------

Comments: (if you fail the candidate, please state why)**If the candidate fails the exam overall, what feedback would you suggest CIC provide for this SCE?**

SCENARIO

It is 2000hrs in your tertiary level ED in Sydney.

You are managing Mrs Margaret Lee, a 65 year-old woman who has just been diagnosed with a massive intra-cerebral haemorrhage.

She presented via ambulance after being found unconscious at her home, where she lives alone. Her presenting GCS was 3 and she was intubated after arrival. CT brain revealed a large intra-cerebral haemorrhage. With consultation by Neurosurgery and ICU, her condition is deemed unsuitable for surgery and organ donation; it portends a grim prognosis. She is not sedated or paralysed in the ED, her GCS remains 3. She is being ventilated but is haemodynamically stable.

Mrs Lee's daughter, Jenny Santos, has just arrived. She does not know the outcome of your assessment, and waits for you in the relatives' room. There are no other members of staff available to accompany you.

Jenny, ROLE PLAYED by an actor, is waiting for you in the room for information regarding her mother. Examiners will NOT be interacting with you or the actor.

Background Information for Actor**Important Note**

The ACEM Fellowship Exam involves examiners and candidates from all Australian states and New Zealand. To optimise fairness for all candidates, all character and scenario features will NOT have demographic details.

In interactions with candidates, please do NOT refer to demographic specifics. For example, you work in the general hospital instead of the Royal North Shore Hospital; you live in the inner suburbs instead of Glebe.

The Character

Mrs Jenny Santos is a 45 year-old married mother of 2 healthy children. Her husband John is a 46 year-old engineer. She is a personal assistant to a finance executive in the CBD. She has no medical knowledge beyond that of an average lay-person. Her children are Jack (16) and Melanie (12). Jenny and all her family are in good health.

Jenny's mother Margaret is an independently living elderly lady with a medical history of hypertension (high blood pressure). She is self-caring and undertakes all activities of daily living herself. She was widowed 4 years ago when her husband (Jenny's father) died of lung cancer following a protracted illness.

Jenny sees Margaret weekly; Margaret enjoys a close relationship with Jenny and her immediate family, particularly with Melanie. Jenny has a 42 year-old sister, Ros, who lives in Melbourne. Ros is single with no children.

The Scene

It is 2000hrs on a Wednesday. Jenny received a telephone call at home from an emergency department (ED) nurse, who advised that Margaret was brought to hospital by ambulance shortly before. Apparently she was found unconscious at home, by her visiting neighbour. The nurse indicated she was unwell, and currently subjected to assessment by ED medical staff. Tests like a CT scan of her brain were planned, but pending.

Obviously very concerned, Jenny immediately drove to the hospital, which is 20 minutes from home. John stayed at home with the children. Upon arrival, she was ushered by the ED nurse to a visitors' room. Jenny was only told that the senior ED doctor will soon come to speak with her.

S/he arrives within 3 minutes.

NB: The "Scenario" in the preceding page is all the information provided to the candidate before s/he interacts with Jenny. That is, s/he will NOT be aware of Jenny's own circumstances.

FACTS:

- Margaret suffered a very large bleed into her brain. This is inoperable, and she is very likely going to die from it, or be rendered permanently in a vegetative state.
- There is no cure or other therapeutic option.
- She is on life support, comprising an artificial ventilator. If this is removed, she has a high chance of dying soon after.
- The senior doctor (played by the candidate) is very likely to declare this, and suggest that ongoing aggressive treatment would be futile.
- You and your family are educated, reasonable lay people, who have never encountered a situation like this before. You are aware of issues such as withdrawal of medical therapy and organ donation, but have not considered, and are unfamiliar with them.
- The senior doctor is a specialist in Emergency Medicine.
- Each interaction lasts only 7 minutes, and many will be done in quick succession.

YOUR OBJECTIVES:

- Comprehend the situation.
- If the conversation proceeds that way: seek the opportunity for your family and Ros to see Margaret before she dies.
- Otherwise, your reactions, emotions and opinions should be that of Jenny (considering her characteristics) when faced with this scenario. React to individual candidates as Jenny would.
- Please **maintain consistency** with Jenny's character nuances, events and tendencies.