

How to work through the pharmvignette worksheet

This worksheet is designed as an evolving learning resource. For each vignette you should highlight, underline, color-code, and circle items you think will aid in prescribing medication for the condition. You must determine a few things before you can “write that prescription” which is one of the main aims of this resource.

Step 1: Read and analyze the vignette and look at the diagnosis (it is given). There are clues within the vignette that will “add to or be a contraindication to” certain medications and may be pertinent to prescribing. You are shifting your focus into prescribing medications.

Things to consider in the reading the PV:

1. Look at the past medical history and the medications. To the best of your current knowledge level analyze and review the patient’s regimen, ask yourself “is adequate for the PMHX and current complaints”?

2. Are there any red flags concerning the medications? Make a note if anything jumps out at you, or when you are reading (book/references) something “flags” your thought process.

(A) If the questions of the specific vignette do not ask you a question regarding med rec/interactions, then this is merely an exercise to get you in the process of interrogating the patient’s medication list. NOTE***You will do this every day and every interaction with a patient. so the better you are at performing a med review, then transitioning into a provider will be “easier”. Mark questions you may have, make notes of anything you would like to discuss.

3. The diagnosis has been given. There are no “trick” diagnoses. It is what it is. When you are reading about it, you should be synthesizing the signs, symptoms, labs, imaging, and physical assessment to confirm your diagnosis. One thing you want to start becoming aware of when you are moving into prescribing medications is the “severity” of the presentation. So always ask yourself “What is the severity?”. This will drive your decisions in many algorithms and decision trees.

This is an exercise to improve and learn how patient presentations are in clinical and how you will approach the interaction. Using the abovementioned steps is a way of getting comfortable with this process will only help you immensely when you are in clinical and prescribing medications.

Step 2: Answer the questions: You analyze the problem and should have a good understanding of the presentation (from patho) as this will drive the plan. The answers are all in your book or available from any resource that has medications and diseases (such as Up to Date ® or Epocrates ® or Emedicine ®). Other things to consider for completeness and optional advanced learning skills include:

- a. Is the patient medicated appropriately for the current history?
- b. Are there any adverse medication reactions that could be manifesting as a complaint?
- c. Is there any unnecessary medication?

- d. What would you like to do for this patient and problem?
- i. When asked to “Briefly develop a medication plan” please refer to either Emedicine/Medscape or any other clinical reference guide you have access to and formulate a BRIEF pharmacological plan on what is appropriate in this clinical scenario.
 - a. Non-pharmacological, pharmacological, lifestyle, dietary-include best plan.
 - b. Include which medications you would like to prescribe – have all components of dosage, route, and frequency.
 - c. Understand the rationale of why you selected that specific medication; and this will aid in class discussion

Since this is a worksheet, use it for many resource options, for clinical, for practice, as a reference in class. I treat all my resources given on this website as a “running” guide to medical management related to common case scenarios you will see in the Primary Care setting.

Hope this helps and happy learning, Professor JaimaLee 😊