

Sample Doctor Writing Task

Time allowed: 40 minutes

Read the case notes below and complete the writing task that follows:

Today's Date

14.10.10

Patient History

Amina Ahmed aged 8 years – new patient at your clinic Parents – Mother Ayama, house-wife. Father Talan, cab driver Brothers Dalma aged 4 and Roble aged 2 Family refugees from Somali 2005. Have Australian Citizenship Amina and father good understanding of English, mother has basic understanding of slowly spoken English. Amina had appendicectomy 2 years ago

No known allergies

09/10/10

Subjective

Fever, runny nose, mild cough, loss of appetite

Unable to attend school

Objective

Pulse 85/min

Temperature 39.4

No rash

No neck stiffness

CVS, RS & abdo – normal

Assessment

Viral infection

Management

Keep home from school

Rest and paracetamol three times daily

Review in 3 days if no improvement

child ?

3

12/10/10

Subjective

Amina not well

Cough +, continuous headache, lethargic, loss of appetite

Difficult to control temperature with Paracetamol

Mother worried

Objective

Fever 39.8 C

No rash or neck stiffness

Management

Prescribe Brufen 200mg as required

FBC & UFR were ordered

Review in two days with results of reports

14/10/10

Subjective

Both parents very concerned

Reported Amina lethargic and listless

Vomited twice last night and headaches worse

Objective

FBC- WBC(18000) and left shift

Urinary Function Report Normal

Temperature 40.2C

Pulse 110/min

Macula-papular rash over legs

Neck Stiffness+

Assessment

Meningococcal Meningitis Penicillin IV given (stat dose)

Plan

Arrange urgent admission to the Emergency Paediatric Unit,
Brisbane General Hospital, for further investigation and treatment.

Writing Task

You are GP, Dr Lucy Irving, Kelvin Grove Medical Centre, 53 Goma Rd,
Kelvin Grove, Brisbane. Write a referral letter to the Duty Registrar,
Emergency Paediatric Unit, Brisbane General Hospital, 140 Grange Road,
Kelvin Grove, QLD, 4222.

In your letter:

- Expand the relevant case notes into complete sentences.
- Do not use note form.
- The body of your letter should be approximately 200 words.
- Use correct letter format.

Sample Doctor Model Letter

14.10.10

The Duty Registrar
Emergency Paediatric Unit
Brisbane General Hospital
140 Grange Road
Kelvin Grove, QLD, 4222

Dear Doctor:

Re. Amina Ahmed (8years)

I am writing to refer Amina who is presenting with signs and symptoms of meningococcal meningitis for urgent assessment and management. She is the first child of a family of 5, which includes her parents and two younger siblings. They are immigrants from Somalia, though she and her father understand English.

Initially, accompanied by her parents, she presented to me on 9.10.10 with complaints of fever, runny nose, cough and loss of appetite. She was febrile with a temperature of 39.4 and a pulse rate of 85 beats per minute, but there was no rash or neck stiffness. However, her condition continued to deteriorate over the next two days as the fever could not be controlled by antipyretics. Therefore, blood and urine tests were ordered.

Regrettably, today Amina became lethargic and listless. She vomited twice last night and had been having severe headaches. On examination, she was severely febrile with a temperature of 40.2 and a pulse rate of 110 beats per minute. There was macula-papular rash over the legs and neck stiffness was present. Blood test showed leucocytosis with a shift to the left.

Based on the above, I believe she needs urgent admission and management. Please note, Penicillin IV has been given as a stat dose.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Lucy Irving