

Chart Audit Field Note & Chart Stimulated Recall Interview Worksheet – Surgical Specialists

A. THIS VISIT

1. **General**
 - (a) “Please tell me about this visit.” [Alternative: “Please outline your approach to the presenting complaint and highlight the key points.”]
2. **Clinical Assessment**
 - (a) “What specific features led you to this diagnosis or clinical impression?”
 - (b) “Were there any other conditions that you ruled out?”
3. **Investigations and Referrals**
 - (a) “What specific features led you to the investigations/referrals you chose?”
 - (b) “Were there any other investigations/referrals that you thought about, deferred or ruled out?”
4. **Treatment**
 - (a) “What specific features led you to the management you chose?”
 - (b) “Were there any other treatments that you thought about, deferred or ruled out?”
[Alternative: “I note that you ordered ‘XYZ’. What factors influenced your choice?” “Were there any other medications you considered?”]
5. **Arrangements for Surgery – Patient Information**
 - (a) “What information, including risks and alternatives, did you provide to the patient about the proposed procedure and its implications?” (convalescence, time off work, need for support, appliances, etc.)?
 - (b) “What is your process for obtaining informed consent?”
6. **Arrangements for Surgery – Pre-Operative Assessment**
 - (a) “What steps were taken to assess the patient’s medical status prior to surgery?”
 - (b) “What effect did the pre-operative assessment have on the patient’s management?”
7. **Follow-Up Care**
 - (a) “What arrangements were made for follow-up?”
 - (b) “If follow-up occurred, what issues were addressed during the follow-up visit?”
8. **Communication with Referring Physician**
 - (a) “What information was sent to the referring physician regarding management? When was it sent?”
 - (b) “What information was sent to the referring physician after surgery? When was it sent?”

B. CONTEXT OF CARE

9. Patient Factors

- (a) “Patient characteristics sometimes influence decision-making. Was there anything special about this patient that influenced your decisions regarding management? (e.g. psychosocial issues, compliance, past medical history, current medications, support systems, employment)”
- (b) “On reflection, is there anything about this patient you wish you knew more about?”

10. Practice/System Factors

- (a) “Is there anything about your practice setting that influenced your management in this case? (e.g. support staff, lack of access to laboratory or x-ray)”.
- (b) “On reflection, what changes would improve your ability to deliver care this patient?”