

# Case Studies



## Patient A Scenario

16-year-old female accompanied by her aunt comes to the health center about 3pm in the afternoon complaining about headaches and pelvic pains. The female appears highly agitated and asks the aunt to join her in the examination room. The nurse notices the aunt is intermittently texting on her cell phone. During the exam, the physician notices tattoos on the patient's upper thigh, chest, and midriff that say, "Thoroughbred."



## Patient B Scenario

A 19-year-old male comes in at 9:00 am. He is sweating, flustered, and most importantly has what appears to be a twisted right forearm and a dislocated left shoulder. He wants pain medicine and a splint, and he needs them quickly. He says that his uncle is waiting in the car.

## Patient C Scenario

A young woman who manifests signs of mental duress has just completed the triage intake. She is panicked and visibly scared. A social worker has been called. During the initial intake, the young woman says, “I can’t stay, I am being watched.” She gets up to leave and actively moves to the exit door.



# Patient H

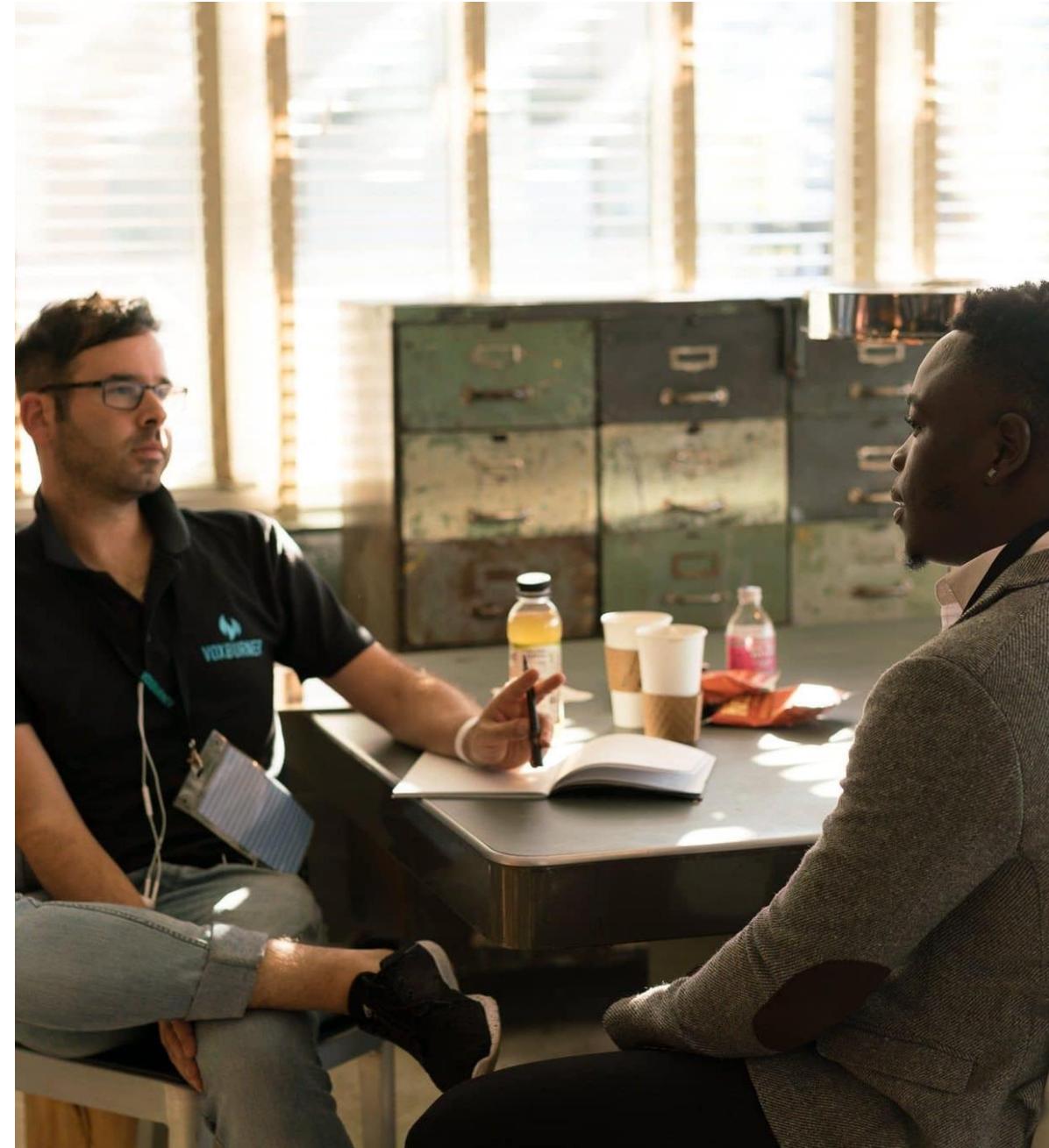
Young male patient comes to the dental office with three broken upper side teeth and a swollen jaw with facial bruises. The patient is distressed complaining that this visit is causing him to miss work, which he can not afford. As you prepare him for the exam, you notice what appears to be several unattended cavities.

As you prepare the patient for the exam, the patient asks for pain pills and to keep the appointment as short as possible because he is being watched and can not say anything more on the subject.



# Patient E Scenario

Your patient, who is a support health care aide at a nearby residential care home for the elderly, comes to you complaining about migraines. He divulges that the owner of the business has indicated that all workers must stay at the facility overnight to attend to clients. When you ask will they get paid for this service, the patient says the 'owner mentions the minimum that the city requires' but does not specify the amount and that the owner says he can't remember the exact amount because he owns different properties in different cities. Your patient is extremely agitated and shares that the owner keeps all employees' important papers, such as Social Security cards, for employee verification. He says the owner often mentions that if he were to discover any of the workers are illegal, he will first fire them on site and then call ICE for fraud. Your patient says how tired and frustrated he is about the whole work situation, including that there is only one staff bathroom in the entire residential care home.





## Patient F Scenario

Your patient comes in with fever and flu-like symptoms. You inquire about how things are going at home and work and when did the symptoms first begin. Your patient replies that the symptoms started 2 days ago, and it was hard getting to the clinic because she had to wait for a ride. You ask if your patient lives far, and if she needs assistance getting home from today's appointment. She replies, "No, I work where I live and it's better if my ride comes from home. Best to keep things simple."

As you continue your exam and you are about to provide a prescription, you notice barely visible surgical scars indicating possible plastic surgery near the breast. You decide to mention the scars and ask when was the procedure completed. The patient remarks, "Got to keep the boss happy," and giggles. As you are about to start discussing the treatment plan, a woman knocks on the exam door asking if the patient is ready to leave.



## Patient G Scenario

A monolingual Spanish-speaking patient comes to clinic for a nasty injury to his front toe that is becoming infected. The patient indicates he works in construction. As a trauma-informed physician or nurse you ask how's work going, and he replies that it is a like a family: "All the workers are from the same region in Central America." You inquire if it was difficult immigrating to the U.S. and he shares, "No, I am here on a tourist visa arranged by the contractors." You ask if he was wearing steel-toed boots when his toe was injured. Your patient says, "Those shoes are too expensive and all of us guys bring our own tools to the work site." You ask how long he and the other workers work each day. Your patient replies, "Until the job is done," no specific time limit. You also ask, "How do you and the others get to work?" Your patient indicates, "The boss picks us up and gives us a place to stay during jobs." He adds. "I am so lucky. Please give me medication to make my toe feel better."

# Thank You

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