

## **BÀI 23 – MEDICAL ENGLISH IN PRACTICE**

### **Previous Management**

#### **Khai thác tiền sử điều trị tuyến trước ở cấp độ nâng cao**

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### **1. Learning Objectives – Mục tiêu bài học**

By the end of this lesson, learners will be able to:

1. Elicit a patient’s previous medical contact before arrival at the current hospital.
  2. Ask accurately about prior treatment, investigations, procedures, and clinical response.
  3. Use the **Past Simple**, **Passive Voice**, and **sequencing language** to describe previous management.
  4. Interpret the clinical significance of deterioration despite initial treatment.
  5. Conduct a structured doctor–patient dialogue at an advanced Medical English level.
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### **2. Core Clinical Situation**

A patient presents to a higher-level hospital after being treated at a district hospital.

The key clinical task is to determine:

- Where the patient was initially managed
- What treatment was given
- Whether the symptoms improved or worsened
- Why the patient was transferred
- Whether any documents, test results, or prescriptions are available

This is not merely a language exercise. It is a clinical reasoning exercise.

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### **3. Original Dialogue – Basic Version**

**Doctor:** Did you go to another hospital before coming here?

**Patient:** Yes. I went to the district hospital.

**Doctor:** What treatment did you receive there?

**Patient:** They gave me intravenous fluids.

**Doctor:** Did your symptoms improve?

**Patient:** No. The pain and abdominal swelling became worse, so my family asked for me to be transferred here.

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#### **4. IELTS 8.0 Upgraded Dialogue – Advanced Clinical Version**

**Doctor:** Before you came here, had you been assessed or treated at any other healthcare facility?

**Patient:** Yes, I was initially taken to the district hospital.

**Doctor:** Could you tell me what treatment or investigations you received there?

**Patient:** They inserted an intravenous line, gave me fluids, and monitored me for several hours. I think they also did some basic blood tests.

**Doctor:** Did your symptoms improve after the initial treatment, or did they continue to progress?

**Patient:** Unfortunately, they got worse. The abdominal pain became more severe, and my abdomen became increasingly swollen.

**Doctor:** Do you know why the doctors decided to transfer you to this hospital?

**Patient:** They said my condition might be more serious than they could manage there, so they advised my family to bring me here.

**Doctor:** Did they give you any referral letter, test results, imaging report, or medication list?

**Patient:** Yes, my family has the referral letter and some test results.

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#### **5. Key Vocabulary – Advanced Medical English**

## **5.1. Healthcare Facility**

### **healthcare facility**

Cơ sở y tế

Example:

**Were you treated at any other healthcare facility before coming here?**

Clinical meaning:

Dùng rộng hơn “hospital”, bao gồm bệnh viện, phòng khám, trung tâm y tế, khoa cấp cứu.

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## **5.2. Initial Management**

### **initial management**

Xử trí ban đầu

Example:

**What initial management did you receive at the district hospital?**

Clinical meaning:

Gồm đánh giá ban đầu, truyền dịch, thuốc, theo dõi, xét nghiệm, chẩn đoán hình ảnh, thủ thuật.

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## **5.3. Intravenous Line**

### **intravenous line / IV line**

Đường truyền tĩnh mạch

Example:

**They inserted an intravenous line and gave me fluids.**

Clinical meaning:

Chính xác hơn câu đơn giản “They gave me intravenous fluids.”

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## **5.4. Clinical Response**

## **clinical response**

Đáp ứng lâm sàng

Example:

**Did you notice any clinical improvement after the treatment?**

Clinical meaning:

Giúp đánh giá điều trị có hiệu quả hay không.

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## **5.5. Deterioration**

### **deterioration**

Diễn biến xấu đi / tình trạng nặng lên

Example:

**The patient reported clinical deterioration despite initial treatment.**

Clinical meaning:

Từ học thuật hơn “became worse”, phù hợp khi trình bày ca bệnh, viết bệnh án hoặc báo cáo.

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## **5.6. Referral Letter**

### **referral letter**

Giấy chuyển tuyến

Example:

**Did they give you a referral letter?**

Clinical meaning:

Rất quan trọng để biết chẩn đoán tuyến trước, xử trí đã làm và lý do chuyển viện.

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## **5.7. Higher-level Hospital**

### **higher-level hospital**

Bệnh viện tuyến cao hơn

Example:

**The patient was transferred to a higher-level hospital for further management.**

Clinical meaning:

Dùng khi nói về chuyển tuyến trong hệ thống y tế.

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## **6. Grammar Focus 1 – Past Simple for Completed Medical Events**

Khi hỏi về những sự kiện đã xảy ra trước khi bệnh nhân đến viện, sử dụng **Past Simple**.

**Structure**

**Did + subject + base verb + object/complement?**

Examples:

**Did you go to another hospital before coming here?**

Anh/chị có đi bệnh viện khác trước khi đến đây không?

**Did they give you any medication?**

Họ có cho anh/chị thuốc gì không?

**Did your symptoms improve after treatment?**

Triệu chứng của anh/chị có cải thiện sau điều trị không?

**Common Error**

Incorrect:

**Did you went to another hospital?**

Correct:

**Did you go to another hospital?**

After **did**, the main verb must return to its base form.

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## **7. Grammar Focus 2 – Past Perfect for Earlier Events**

Ở cấp độ nâng cao hơn, có thể dùng **Past Perfect** để nhấn mạnh một sự kiện đã xảy ra trước một mốc quá khứ khác.

### **Structure**

**Had + subject + past participle...?**

Example:

**Had you received any treatment before you were transferred here?**

Anh/chị đã được điều trị gì trước khi được chuyển đến đây chưa?

**Had your symptoms worsened before the transfer?**

Triệu chứng đã nặng lên trước khi chuyển viện chưa?

Clinical value:

Past Perfect giúp mô tả rõ trình tự: điều trị trước, chuyển viện sau.

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## **8. Grammar Focus 3 – Passive Voice in Medical English**

Trong y khoa, **Passive Voice** rất thường dùng vì người nói muốn nhấn mạnh vào bệnh nhân hoặc can thiệp, không nhất thiết nhấn mạnh ai thực hiện.

### **Structure**

**Subject + was/were + past participle**

Examples:

**I was given intravenous fluids.**

Tôi đã được truyền dịch.

**I was transferred to this hospital.**

Tôi được chuyển đến bệnh viện này.

**Blood tests were performed.**

Các xét nghiệm máu đã được thực hiện.

**An ultrasound was done.**

Siêu âm đã được thực hiện.

Advanced version:

**The patient was initially managed at a district hospital and was later transferred due to worsening abdominal symptoms.**

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## **9. Clinical Framework – WHERE, WHAT, HOW, WHY, EVIDENCE**

Ở cấp độ cơ bản, ta dùng mô hình **WHERE – WHAT – HOW**.

Ở cấp độ IELTS 8.0, nên nâng lên thành mô hình 5 bước:

### **1. WHERE – Where was the patient initially managed?**

Useful questions:

**Where were you first taken after the symptoms started?**

**Were you assessed at any clinic or hospital before coming here?**

**Which healthcare facility did you visit first?**

Clinical aim:

Xác định tuyến trước, thời điểm tiếp cận y tế và hành trình bệnh nhân.

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### **2. WHAT – What treatment or investigations were performed?**

Useful questions:

**What treatment did you receive there?**

**Were you given any medication, intravenous fluids, or oxygen?**

**Did they perform any blood tests, ultrasound, X-ray, or CT scan?**

**Were any procedures carried out?**

Clinical aim:

Xác định thuốc, dịch truyền, xét nghiệm, chẩn đoán hình ảnh, thủ thuật, theo dõi.

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### **3. HOW – How did the symptoms change after treatment?**

Useful questions:

**Did your symptoms improve after the initial treatment?**

**Did the pain become less severe or more severe?**

**Did the abdominal swelling continue to increase?**

**Did you feel better, worse, or about the same?**

Clinical aim:

Đánh giá đáp ứng điều trị, phát hiện diễn tiến nặng.

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**4. WHY – Why was the patient transferred?**

Useful questions:

**Do you know why the doctors decided to transfer you here?**

**Were you told that your condition required specialist care?**

**Were you referred because your symptoms were getting worse?**

Clinical aim:

Hiểu lý do chuyển tuyến: bệnh nặng, vượt khả năng tuyến trước, cần chuyên khoa, cần can thiệp sâu.

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**5. EVIDENCE – What documents or results are available?**

Useful questions:

**Did they give you a referral letter?**

**Do you have any test results, imaging reports, or prescriptions with you?**

**Could your family show me the medical documents from the previous hospital?**

Clinical aim:

Thu thập bằng chứng khách quan để đối chiếu bệnh sử.

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**10. Advanced Expressions for IELTS 8.0 Medical Communication**

**Basic**

**Did your symptoms improve?**

**Better**

**Did you notice any improvement after the treatment?**

**Advanced**

**Did your symptoms settle, persist, or deteriorate despite the initial management?**

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**Basic**

**What treatment did you receive?**

**Better**

**What treatment were you given there?**

**Advanced**

**Could you describe the treatment, investigations, or procedures that were carried out before you were transferred?**

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**Basic**

**The pain became worse.**

**Better**

**The pain got worse after treatment.**

**Advanced**

**The abdominal pain progressively worsened despite initial treatment.**

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**Basic**

**They transferred me here.**

**Better**

**I was transferred here.**

**Advanced**

**I was referred to this hospital for further assessment and specialist management.**

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## 11. Doctor's Summary – How to Present the Case

Sau khi hỏi bệnh nhân, bác sĩ cần biết tóm tắt lại bằng tiếng Anh y khoa.

### Basic Summary

The patient went to the district hospital before coming here. He received intravenous fluids, but his symptoms did not improve. His abdominal pain and swelling became worse, so he was transferred to our hospital.

### IELTS 8.0 Clinical Summary

The patient was initially assessed at a district hospital, where he received intravenous fluids and basic monitoring. However, his abdominal pain and abdominal distension progressively worsened despite initial management. Due to clinical deterioration and the need for further evaluation, he was transferred to our hospital for specialist care.

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## 12. Useful Collocations – Cụm từ học thuật nên nhớ

### initial assessment

đánh giá ban đầu

### initial management

xử trí ban đầu

### intravenous fluid therapy

điều trị bằng truyền dịch tĩnh mạch

### clinical deterioration

diễn biến lâm sàng xấu đi

### progressively worsened

nặng dần lên

### despite initial treatment

mặc dù đã điều trị ban đầu

**further evaluation**

đánh giá thêm

**specialist care**

chăm sóc chuyên khoa

**higher-level hospital**

bệnh viện tuyến cao hơn

**referral documentation**

hồ sơ chuyển tuyến

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**13. Mini Practice – IELTS 8.0 Level**

**Exercise 1. Upgrade the Sentence**

Rewrite the following basic sentences into advanced Medical English.

1. **They gave me fluids.**

Suggested answer:

**I was given intravenous fluid therapy.**

2. **The pain became worse.**

Suggested answer:

**The abdominal pain progressively worsened.**

3. **They sent me here.**

Suggested answer:

**I was transferred to this hospital for further assessment.**

4. **I did not get better.**

Suggested answer:

**There was no significant clinical improvement after the initial treatment.**

5. **They did some tests.**

Suggested answer:

**Several preliminary investigations were performed.**

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## **Exercise 2. Build a Clinical Question**

Use the prompts to create advanced questions.

1. treatment / receive / district hospital

Answer:

**What treatment did you receive at the district hospital?**

2. symptoms / improve / after treatment

Answer:

**Did your symptoms improve after the initial treatment?**

3. blood tests / perform

Answer:

**Were any blood tests performed?**

4. reason / transfer

Answer:

**Do you know why the doctors decided to transfer you here?**

5. documents / referral letter

Answer:

**Did they provide you with a referral letter or any test results?**

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## **Exercise 3. Role-play**

Student A: Doctor

Ask the patient using the 5-step framework:

1. WHERE

2. WHAT

3. HOW
4. WHY
5. EVIDENCE

Student B: Patient

Answer using the following information:

- Initially went to the district hospital
- Received intravenous fluids
- Had basic blood tests
- Abdominal pain and swelling became worse
- Was transferred for further management
- Has a referral letter and some test results

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#### **14. Model Role-play at IELTS 8.0 Level**

**Doctor:** Before coming here, were you assessed at any other healthcare facility?

**Patient:** Yes, I was taken to the district hospital.

**Doctor:** What treatment or investigations did you receive there?

**Patient:** They gave me intravenous fluids and performed some basic blood tests.

**Doctor:** Did you notice any improvement after the initial treatment?

**Patient:** No. My abdominal pain became more severe, and the swelling continued to increase.

**Doctor:** Do you know why you were transferred here?

**Patient:** The doctors said I needed further evaluation at a higher-level hospital.

**Doctor:** Did they provide you with any referral documents or test results?

**Patient:** Yes, my family has the referral letter and the blood test results.

**Doctor:** Thank you. That information is very helpful. I will review those documents and assess your current condition carefully.

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## **15. Teaching Note for Instructor**

Trọng tâm của bài này không phải là học nhiều từ khó, mà là nâng cấp tư duy hỏi bệnh:

Từ câu hỏi đơn giản:

**Did you go to another hospital?**

Nâng lên câu hỏi chuyên nghiệp hơn:

**Before coming here, had you been assessed or treated at any other healthcare facility?**

Từ câu trả lời đơn giản:

**They gave me fluids.**

Nâng lên cách trình bày y khoa:

**The patient was given intravenous fluid therapy but showed no significant clinical improvement.**

Từ nhận xét thông thường:

**The pain became worse.**

Nâng lên nhận định lâm sàng:

**The abdominal pain and distension progressively worsened despite initial management.**

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## **16. Key Take-home Message**

Previous management is not a minor part of history taking. It is a window into the patient's clinical journey.

A good doctor asks:

**Where was the patient treated?**

**What was done?**

**How did the patient respond?**

**Why was the patient transferred?**

**What evidence is available?**

In Medical English, fluency is not just speaking beautifully.

It is asking precisely, listening carefully, summarising clinically, and acting wisely.

**Previous Management – Ask about the past to make better decisions in the present.**