

# Writing sub-test

## Medicine

### Sample Test

Please print in **BLOCK LETTERS**

Candidate number

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Family name

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Other name(s)

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City

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Date of test

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Candidate's signature

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**YOU MUST NOT REMOVE OET MATERIAL FROM THE TEST ROOM**

# OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

**WRITING SUB-TEST: MEDICINE**

**TIME ALLOWED: READING TIME: 5 MINUTES**  
**WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES**

Read the case notes below and complete the writing task which follows.

## **Notes:**

**Patient:** Mrs Priya Sharma  
**DOB:** 08.05.53 (Age 60)  
**Residence:** 71 Seaside Street, Newtown

**Social Background:** Married 40 years – 3 adult children, 5 grandchildren (overseas). Retired (clerical worker).

**Family History:** Many relatives with type 2 diabetes (NIDDM)  
Nil else significant

**Medical History:** 1994 – NIDDM  
Nil significant, no operations  
Allergic to penicillin  
Menopause 12 yrs  
Never smoked, nil alcohol  
No formal exercise

**Current Drugs:** Metformin 500mg 2 nocte  
Glipizide 5mg 2 mane  
No other prescribed, OTC, or recreational

**29/12/13**

**Discussion:** Concerned that her glucose levels are not well enough controlled – checks levels often (worried?)  
Attends health centre – feels not taking her concerns seriously  
Recent blood sugar levels (BSL) 6-18  
Checks BP at home  
Last eye check October 2012 – OK  
Wt steady, BMI 24  
App good, good diet  
Bowels normal, micturition normal

**O/E:** Full physical exam: NAD  
BP 155/100  
No peripheral neuropathy; pelvic exam not performed  
Pathology requested: FBE, U&Es, creatinine, LFTs, full lipid profile, HbA1c  
Medication added: candesartan (Atacand) tab 4mg 1 mane  
Review 2 weeks

**TURN OVER**

<b>05/01/14</b>	Pathology report received: FBE, U&Es, creatinine, LFTs in normal range GFR > 60ml/min HbA1c 10% (very poor control) Lipids: Chol 6.2 (high), Trig 2.4, LDLC 3.7
<b>12/01/14</b>	Review of pathology results with Pt Changes in medication recommended Metformin regime changed from 2 nocte to 1 b.d. Atorvastatin (Lipitor) 20mg 1 mane added Glipizide 5mg 2 mane Review 2 weeks
<b>30/01/14</b>	Home BP in range Sugars improved Pathology requested: fasting lipids, full profile
<b>06/02/14</b>	Pathology report received: Chol 3.2, Trig 1.7, LDLC 1.1
<b>10/02/14</b>	Pathology report reviewed with Mrs Sharma Fasting sugar usually in 16+ (high) range Other blood sugars 7-8 Refer to specialist at Diabetes Unit for further management of sugar levels

### **Writing Task:**

Using the information in the case notes, write a letter of referral to Dr Smith, an endocrinologist at City Hospital, for further management of Mrs Sharma's sugar levels. Address the letter to Dr Lisa Smith, Endocrinologist, City Hospital, Newtown.

#### **In your answer:**

- **Expand the relevant notes into complete sentences**
- **Do not use note form**
- **Use letter format**

**The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.**

# OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

**WRITING SUB-TEST: MEDICINE**

**SAMPLE RESPONSE: LETTER OF REFERRAL**

Dr Lisa Smith  
Endocrinologist  
City Hospital  
Newtown

10 February 2014

Dear Dr Smith,

Re: Mrs Priya Sharma  
71 Seaside Street, Newtown  
DOB 08.05.53

Thank you for seeing Mrs Priya Sharma, a type 2 diabetic. I would be grateful if you would assist with her blood sugar control.

Mrs Sharma is 60 years old and has a strong family history of diabetes. She was diagnosed with NIDDM in 1994 and has been successfully monitoring her BP and sugar levels at home since then. She first attended my surgery on 29/12/13 as she was concerned that her blood sugar levels were no longer well controlled.

On initial presentation her BP was 155/100 and she said that her blood sugars were running between 6 and 18. Her medication at that time was metformin 500mg x2 nocte and glipizide 5mg x2 mane.

Mrs Sharma is allergic to penicillin. A pathology report on 05/01/2014 showed HbA1c levels of 10% and GFR greater than 60ml/min. Her cholesterol was high (6.2).

On 29/12/13, I instituted Atacand 4mg, 1 tablet each morning. Since then her home-monitored BP has been within range. On 12/01/14, I also prescribed Lipitor 20mg daily, and her lipids have improved, with cholesterol falling from 6.2 to 3.2.

Mrs Sharma reports that her fasting BSL is in the 16+ range (other blood sugars are 7-8). I am concerned about her fasting blood sugars, which remain high, and would appreciate your advice.

Yours sincerely,

Doctor