

## Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Sample Questions

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### Ethical Dilemma:

- Abortion
- Dual Relationships
- Conflict of interest
- Euthanasia / End-of-life care
- Substitute decision-making
- Embryonic stem cell research
- Patient autonomy
- Patient confidentiality
- Informed consent

1. A 14 year old patient requests birth control pills from you and asks that you not tell her parents. What would you do?
2. A member of your family decides to depend solely on alternative medicine for treatment of his or her significant illness. What would you do?
3. If you have the choice of giving a transplant to a successful elderly member of the community and a 20 year old drug addict – how do you choose?
4. An eighteen year-old female arrives in the emergency room with a profound nose bleed. You are the physician, and you have stopped the bleeding. She is now in a coma from blood loss and will die without a transfusion. A nurse finds a recent signed card from Jehovah's Witnesses Church in the patient's purse refusing blood transfusions under any circumstance. What would you do?
5. The Canadian Pediatric Association has recommended that circumcisions 'not be routinely performed'. They base this recommendation on their determination that 'the benefits have not been shown to clearly outweigh the risks and costs'. Doctors have no obligation to refer for, or provide, a circumcision, but many do, even when they are clearly not medically necessary. BC Medicare no longer pays for unnecessary circumcisions. Consider the ethical problems that exist in this case. Discuss these issues with the interviewer.
6. A Vancouver bio-tech company was hired by the US Military to develop a cure for Ebola. They successfully developed a vaccine to treat the symptoms of the virus and lowered the mortality rate for infected patients. Discuss the implications of this on a global scale.
7. Your mother calls you and asks you to help with a major family decision. Your maternal grandfather is 70 years old and has been diagnosed with a condition that will kill him some time in the next five years. He can have a procedure that will correct the disease and not leave him with any long-term problems, but the procedure has a 10% mortality rate. He wants to have the procedure, but your mother does not want him to. How would you help mediate this issue?
8. You are a genetic counselor. One of your clients, Linda, had a boy with a genetic defect that may have a high recurrence risk, meaning her subsequent pregnancies has a high chance of being affected by the same defect. You offered genetic testing of Linda, her husband, and their son to find out more about their disease, to which everyone agreed. The result showed that neither Linda nor her husband carry the mutation, while the boy inherited the mutation on a paternal chromosome that did not come from Linda's husband. In other words, the boy's biological father is someone else, who is unaware that he carries the mutation.

You suspect that Linda nor her husband are aware of this non-paternity. How would you disclose the results of this genetic analysis to Linda and her family? What principles and who do you have to take into consideration in this case?

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9. A woman enters the emergency room with stomach pain. She undergoes a CT scan and is diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm. The physicians inform her that the only way to fix the problem is surgically, and that the chances of survival are about 50/50. They also inform her that time is of the essence, and that should the aneurysm burst, she would be dead in a few short minutes. The woman is an exotic dancer; she worries that the surgery will leave a scar that will negatively affect her work; therefore, she refuses any surgical treatment. Even after much pressuring from the physicians, she adamantly refuses surgery. Feeling that the woman is not in her correct state of mind and knowing that time is of the essence, the surgeons decide to perform the procedure without consent. They anesthetize her and surgically repair the aneurysm. She survives, and sues the hospital for millions of dollars. Do you believe that the physician's actions can be justified in any way? Is it ever right to take away someone's autonomy?
10. You are a general practitioner and a mother comes into your office with her child who is complaining of flu-like symptoms. Upon entering the room, you ask the boy to remove his shirt and you notice a pattern of bruises on the boy's torso. You ask the mother where the bruises came from, and she tells you that they are from a procedure she performed on him known as "cao gio," which is also known as "coining." The procedure involves rubbing warm oils or gels on a person's skin with a coin or other flat metal object. The mother explains that cao gio is used to raise out bad blood, and improve circulation and healing. When you touch the boy's back with your stethoscope, he winces in pain from the bruises. You debate whether or not you should call Child Protective Services and report the mother. When should a physician step in to stop a cultural practice? Should the physician be concerned about alienating the mother and other people of her ethnicity from modern medicine?
11. A patient with Down's Syndrome became pregnant. The patient does not want an abortion. Her mother and husband want the patient to have an abortion. What should a physician do in this situation?
12. A 12-year old boy is diagnosed with a terminal illness (e.g., malignancy). He asked the doctor about his prognosis. His parents requested the doctor not to tell him the bad news. What should the doctor do in this situation?
13. A couple has decided to have a child through artificial insemination. They asked the physician for sex selection of the child. What should a physician advise in this situation?
14. A physician became sexually involved with a current patient who initiated or consented to the contact. Is it ethical for a physician to become sexually involved?
15. A 17-year old boy lives independently. He is married and has one child. He wants to participate in a medical research study. Does he need his parents' permission?
16. A physician went to vacation for 2 weeks. He did not find another physician to cover him. One of his patients with hypertension developed severe headache. The patient has an appointment with the doctor as soon as he comes back from vacation. The patient did not look for another physician and decided to wait. The patient suddenly collapses and was diagnosed to have intracranial hemorrhage. Is the physician responsible for this patient?
17. A 40-year old schizophrenic patient needs hernia repair. Surgeon discussed the procedure with the patient who understood the procedure. Can the patient give consent?
18. A physician picked up a car accident victim from the street and brought him to the ER in his car. He did not want to wait for an ambulance because the patient's condition was critical. Physical examination in the ER reveals quadriplegia. Is the physician liable for this consequence?

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19. As a physician at a local hospital you notice that there is a man with an alcohol dependency who keeps on consuming the hand sanitizer offered at the hand sanitizer stands throughout the hospital. He is not a patient at the hospital at present but has been many times in the past. Consequently, there is often no hand sanitizer for public use. What do you do? Do you remove/change location of hand sanitizer stands? Do you approach him?
20. A 18-year old man is diagnosed to have suspected bacterial meningitis. He refuses therapy and returns to the college dormitory. What should a physician do in this situation?
21. Is it ethical for doctors to strike? If so, under what conditions?
22. There is an outbreak of an incredibly contagious life-threatening disease. The disease is spreading across the country at a rapid rate and the survival rate is less than 50%. You are a senior health care administrator, and when the vaccine is developed, you have priority to receive the drug. Do you take the vaccine yourself or give it to another person? Why or why not?
23. You are a health researcher at an academic institution. You have been asked to work on a top-secret vaccine that would treat biomedical weapons or other communicable diseases. Before your break through, you are instructed by the government to stop all research and turn over all materials and copies of your work to be destroyed. You know you are very close to finding a cure. What do you do?
24. A patient requests needles and syringes at his/her local pharmacy. They do not present with a prescription, and based on the records you can access, they are not receiving treatment for diabetes. Do you sell the syringes or not?
25. Dr. Blair recommends homeopathic medicines to his patients. There is no scientific evidence or widely accepted theory to suggest that homeopathic medicines work, and Dr. Blair doesn't believe them to. He recommends homeopathic medicine to people with mild and non-specific symptoms such as fatigue, headaches, and muscle aches, because he believes that it will do no harm, but will give them reassurance. Consider the ethical problems that Dr. Blair's behaviour might pose. Discuss.



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### **Policy and Health Care:**

- Physician shortage
  - Private vs public system
  - Wait time
  - Pro/cons of Canadian system
  - Methods of improvement
  - Anything is fair game
- 5 Principles of Canadian Health Care: Public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, accessibility
26. The City of Vancouver has taken great measures to increase accessibility to alternative forms of transportation (Canada Line, Hornby and Dunsmuir Bike Lanes, Proposed Evergreen Line, and Burrard Street Bridge closures). Discuss the impacts (both positive and negative) of these decisions?
27. If the Prime Minister of Canada were to ask your advice on one change that could be applied to the healthcare system in Canada that would improve it enormously and have the greatest positive effect, how would you answer?
28. The man who lives next door to you often rides his bicycle in the company of his two young children but without a helmet. In fact, on several occasions you have seen him riding with his helmet hanging by its straps from the handlebars. His young children sometimes wear a helmet, sometimes not. If the man fell off his bicycle and hurt his head in a way that would have been prevented if he had worn a helmet, would it be reasonable to ask him to contribute towards the treatment costs for his injury?
29. Due to a shortage of physicians in rural and Northern communities in BC, some policy-makers have suggested that medical programs preferentially admit students who are willing to commit to a 2 or 3 year tenure in rural areas after graduation. Consider the broad implications of this policy for health care and the costs associated. Will this policy be effective?
30. Recently, certain hospitals in the Vancouver Area have been charging patients \$29/day for their hospital fee on top of the fees charged to MSP. What are the implications of this policy? Discuss both positive and negative impacts with the interviewer.
31. Do you think general practitioners have an obligation to report their patients' health status to a public health agency, if their patients have active infectious diseases?
32. Statistics have shown that effects of advanced age such as changes in vision and response time may adversely affect elderly drivers' ability to drive safely. As a matter of fact, many doctors discuss the issue of stopping driving with their older patients as a precaution for the safety of theirs as well as the public's. Do you think older drivers have to give up driving when they reach a certain age?
33. In recent years, there has been an increase in popularity of full contact sports, such as Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) and boxing. Should doctors have a role in regulating such sports?
34. Do you think medicine should be more about changing behaviour to prevent disease or treating existing disease?
35. Discuss the pros and cons of legalizing marijuana on the Canadian Health Care system. How does this impact a physician's present ability to write out prescription for 'medical marijuana'? Would legalization cost the health care system more or less after it was passed?

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36. Imagine your friend's father is 70 years old and has lived in Vancouver his whole life. He is taken to the emergency department at the Vancouver General Hospital. He has had good health until now and this is the first time he has been to hospital of any kind since he was 20 years old. What changes in the healthcare system and environment in the hospital do you think he would notice?
37. Discuss any topical health care issue that is unique to the Pacific Northwest region (or region for Med School you are applying to)?
38. Discuss one of these health care issues: human genome project, AIDS, abortion, the right to die, the cost of health care, and genetic engineering
39. How does Canadian health care system compare to that of Britain's system?
40. What is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid? (American Question)
41. Recently, the Prime Minister of Canada suggested the idea of deterrent fees (a small charge, say \$10, which everyone who initiates a visit to a health professional would have to pay at the first contact) as a way to control health care costs. The assumption is that this will deter people from visiting their doctor for unnecessary reasons. Consider the broad implications of this policy for health and health care costs
42. What is your opinion about stem cell research using fetal tissue?
43. How would you advise patients who are interested in visiting an acupuncturist or a chiropractor?
44. When is it appropriate to participate in assisted suicide of a patient? Why or why not?
45. A Kootenay town runs a health-collective that provides various alternative and traditional forms of medicine. The physicians there encourage parents of small children not to vaccinate their children. Discuss the positive and negative impacts of this opinion.
46. In June 2011, the Vancouver Canucks lost the Stanley Cup and riots broke out in Downtown Vancouver. Discuss the impact on the community and the range of health care professionals at St. Paul's Hospital.
47. What is the difference between HMOs and PPOs? (American Question)
48. "Liberation Therapy" (LT), a vascular operation developed to potentially cure multiple sclerosis (MS) in certain patients, has recently come under very serious criticism – delaying its widespread use. Among other experimental flaws, critics cite a small sample size in the original evidence used to support LT. As a healthcare policy maker, your job is to weigh the pros and cons in approving novel drugs and therapies. Please discuss the issues you would consider during an approval process for LT.
49. In June 2011, the infamous Vancouver riots took place after their hockey team lost in the Stanley Cup Finals. Stores were ransacked and cars were burned. Hundreds of people were injured and sent to overcrowded hospitals. As the police chief in Vancouver, what measures or policies would you put in place to make sure this does not happen again?

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### **Role Play – Scenarios:**

1. You are a family physician. One of your patients, Mark, did not attend one of his classes and missed an important exam. He told you that his teacher would like a doctor's note explaining his absence from class; otherwise, he will receive zero, and all hell will break loose. He wants you to write a note for him, indicating that he was not feeling well enough to write the exam. Not able to find any physical symptoms, explain how you would deal with this. Enter the room and talk to Mark.
2. You are a 3rd year medical student doing hospital rotations. A fellow medical student who is doing rounds with you often show up to these sessions tired, messy, hung over, or even drunk. One day you found him in the lunch room unaccompanied, so you decided to talk to him. Please enter the lunch room.
3. Your friend Jason hasn't come to class for a few days. Being a hardworking premed student, he very seldom skips classes. You know that he is applying to medical school in the past several weeks. You called his house and he said you can visit him. You decided to pay him a visit after your classes. Enter the room and talk to Jason.
4. You are a cardiologist at a local hospital, who just finished a shift and has a tight run to your daughter's high school graduation ceremony. As you headed off to the door, Jennifer, a patient who knew you well, saw you from the waiting room and grabbed your attention. "Doctor! I have a bad chest pain. Please stay for a bit. I'll feel much better if you were here." Enter the waiting room and talk to Jennifer.
5. You are a current undergraduate student. During the week of graduation, you attend a number of parties around the Lower Mainland with your best friend, Kelly. The last party is held at a camp ground in Squamish. The morning after the party, you receive a call from Kelly. She asks that you come over and talk. Kelly reveals that she left early and drove home despite drinking that night. Enter the room and talk to Kelly.
6. You are an emergency room physician at a local hospital. A patient comes in requesting painkillers for his back. Upon reviewing his file, you realize that he frequently comes to the hospital requesting painkillers and he has already capped his prescription for the month. Upon examination, you notice no new injuries to indicate an increase in painkillers. You politely tell patient that you will not increase his dosage or re-fill out another prescription for him. He tells you that he will go and inject himself with heroin right now if he does not get the painkillers. What do you say next? What do you do?
7. Your 5 year old nephew asks you, "Why is the sky blue?" How would you answer him using a series of simple scientific experiments?
8. Your company needs both you and a co-worker (Sara, a colleague from another branch of the company, who is gripped by fear of flying since one of her friends narrowly escaped being at the World Trade Centre when it was destroyed) to attend a critical business meeting in San Diego. You have just arrived to drive Sara to the airport. Sara is in the room.

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### **Ethical Resources:**

Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)

Bioethics articles [http://www.cmaj.ca/misc/bioethics\\_e.shtml](http://www.cmaj.ca/misc/bioethics_e.shtml)

Doing Right: A Practical Guide to Ethics for Medical Trainees and Physicians

Philip C. Hebert

Canadian Medical Association – Ethics Guide

<http://policybase.cma.ca/dbtw-wpd/PolicyPDF/PD04-06.pdf>

Also look for the provincial college of physicians/surgeons

McMaster's MMI Manual for Interviewers: <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/mdprog/documents/InterviewerManualFull2012-13forWEBSITE.pdf>

Astroff's MMI Website: <http://multipleminiinterview.com/mmi-questions/>

### **Policy Resources:**

Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada: The Romanow Commission (Gov't Canada)

Public Health and Preventative Medicine in Canada C. Shah

5 Principles of Canadian Health Care

Public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, accessibility

[Zeroratio.blogspot.com](http://zeroratio.blogspot.com)

Health Canada Website and Health Canada Act and Publications: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

Comparison of Canadian and American Health Systems: <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp300-e.htm>

Prescription for Excellence Michael Rachlis, MD <http://www.michaelrachlis.com>



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## NON-PHYSICIAN MMI PROMPTS

### Pharmacy Ethical Prompts

1. You are a pharmacist practicing in a patient care setting, who experiences another episode (in a repetitious pattern) where your patient would benefit from specific drug information, but you find the workload demands to be an impossible barrier to providing more than the minimum, legally required information. What would you do?
2. Your work as home health care pharmacist and are asked to present questionably substantiated information on the efficacy of a given therapy, in order to support insurance reimbursement for a patient who is truly in need of treatment. How do you handle this situation?
3. A customer asks for an over-the-counter treatment. After talking to the patient you come to the conclusions/he does not really need the treatment, though it would do no harm for him/her to use it. What do you do?
4. While speaking to a patient about his/her condition (e.g. epilepsy) you discover s/he has not, and will not, inform the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Authority even though his/her condition might affect him/her while driving (e.g. s/he has suffered a seizure in the last twelve months). How do you handle this situation, given the information you are now aware of?

Resources: <http://www.urch.com/forums/fpgee/114448-ethical-dilemmas-pharmacy-practice-examples.html>;  
[http://www.pharmacyresearchuk.org/waterway/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Ethics\\_in\\_pharmacy\\_practice\\_200910.pdf](http://www.pharmacyresearchuk.org/waterway/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Ethics_in_pharmacy_practice_200910.pdf)

### Pharmacy Policy Prompts

1. According to the CMA & CPA, by 2015, e-prescribing will be the means by which prescriptions are generated for Canadians. What are the implications of this policy? What are the foreseeable advantages and challenges that this new method may present for pharmacists and their patients?

Resource: <http://www.pharmacists.ca/index.cfm/cpha-on-the-issues/policy-position-statements/>

### Nursing Ethical Prompts

1. You're a nurse and you have a young patient that comes into the emergency room asking for an abortion. This goes against your personal values. How do you support this patient? What is appropriate? How might your care for this patient be vulnerable to and influenced by your values? How do you safeguard against that?
2. One of your patients wants to stop eating. You know the consequences will harm the patient. What do you do?
3. A patient is brought to your unit from the emergency room for follow-up treatment. The patient recently awoke to find themselves in hospital and the staff who brought them to your unit gave the patient a limited explanation regarding the acute issues of why they are in hospital. They have a lot of questions and are demonstrating increasing levels of distress. You have a high case load due to someone calling in sick during your shift, and you cannot find the nursing assistant. What would you do? How would you manage your responsibilities?
4. You are nurse working on an intensive care unit. A patient's vitals begin to crash immediately after being brought to the unit. No one has had the chance to read the patient's chart. What do you do?

*Answer: Response should reflect an understanding of the information that is required to ethically engage in resuscitation of the patient, or not, while balancing the urgency of the situation. Response should reflect how this may be prevented and what staff would need to do to effectively educate themselves to take appropriate action in this situation and in preparation for if this situation was to happen (again) in the future.*

Resources: <http://www.nursetogether.com/ethical-dilemmas-in-nursing>; personal correspondence with a Registered Nurse from Alberta (AG)

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### Nursing Policy Prompts

1. Nursing workload is a significant problem that needs to be addressed. Often nurses find they do not have adequate time to complete the tasks that are required of them in the time given each shift. How does this impact patient care? What are the implications for the nurses and the work culture and environment? What are the potential policy changes that can help alleviate some of this workload pressure?

Resource: <http://myassignmenthelp.info/assignments/contemporary-nursing-issues/>

### Physiotherapy Ethical Prompts

1. As a physiotherapist, you are referred a 16 year-old for treatment of severe burns that limit function on the patient's arms and hands. Upon examination, you notice other burn marks and unexplained bruises on the patient. After working with the patient for a few weeks, you ask about the other marks on the patient's body. The patient admits to being abused by their parents but begs you not to tell anyone. What do you do?

Resource: <http://www.studymode.com/essays/Ethical-Problems-Physical-Therapy-134448.html>

### Occupational Therapy Ethical Prompts

1. As an occupational therapist, you work with clients of all ages. One of your younger clients begins searching you on the internet and contacts you through social media sites. In this age, it is common for people to have many various personal and professional web profiles through sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc. What measures would you take if this happened? What would you do if the client would not stop?

*Answer: Initially, speak directly to the client reaffirming professional boundaries while remaining respectful to the client and yourself. If it persists, it may be necessary to go to management and the ethics board at relevant to your place of work. It also begs the question of what is appropriate to have on the internet for health professionals. Although that is personal information, the personal/professional boundary is crossed when information is easily accessible to those the health professional works with.*

2. You are an occupational therapist that works with a population with complex psychiatric histories. One of your older clients has been recently diagnosed with neurodegenerative disease, and she has schizophrenia. There is a history of the client's children neglecting her needs and taking advantage of the client financially. Nevertheless, the client has a relationship with her family and they want to be named the primary decision maker for the client. How do you work with the client and her family knowing the past history of neglect and present needs of your client?

Resources: personal correspondence with JM & JB, Occupational Therapists in BC

