

Past Medical History

A past medical history, or PMH, is the next part of the interview. It enhances a physician's evaluation of a patient's concern or illness. A past medical history tells you about a patient's health and illnesses experiences and their responses to it. The past medical history helps a practitioner evaluate the presence of risk factors for a patient.

Depending on how well a patient does as a historian, it may be easy or hard to take a past medical history. But it is sometimes considered a little bit easier as it has already occurred for a patient, and it is a structured memory for them to recall for you.

Key ways to start a past medical history include:

"Starting from when you were a child, what serious illnesses have you had in the past?"

"Now I'd like to ask you a little bit about any illness or medical problems you've experienced."

"How has your health been?"

"Now that I understand your current concern, how has your health been in the past?"

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