

Indigenous Health CanMEDS–Family Medicine Roles

Communicator



We engage in general interview tasks while considering cultural and societal contexts

- As with non-Indigenous patients, this includes relationship building, information gathering, explaining, and planning
- When engaging with Indigenous patients, responsively adapt communication to address factors arising from colonization and any cultural contexts specific to the patient and physician



Norms of communication differ according to cultural contexts.

We must **reflect on our own natal and medical cultures** and their influences before exploring Indigenous cultural contexts.

Distinct ethical themes can provide a construct for interviews with patients.

The ethic of **reciprocation of narrative:**

- Guides us to make sure the patient has enough space and time to share their perspective
- Supports narrative approaches
- Avoids overly instructive delivery

The ethic of **non-interference:**

- Offers a robust picture of the Indigenous patient's world
- Important for relationship building

We must be conscious of our potential for enforcing inequity within the clinical interaction.

Language is a powerful mediator of oppression:

- We pay attention to our messages and apply strengths-based approaches



Key and enabling competencies

1

We make sure that interactions do not perpetuate inequity

- Understand the influence of colonization, racism, and oppression within the medical interview and address power imbalances
- Reflect on our personal cultures and the perspectives of Indigenous peoples

2

We develop rapport, trust, and ethical therapeutic relationships with patients and their families

- Use approaches based in reciprocity of context; share our own experiences

3

We elicit and summarize information from the perspective of patients and their families

- Facilitate non-judgmental exploration of the patient's broader social and cultural contexts in relation to their health concern

4

We share health information and plans with patients and their families

- Use narratives and metaphors relevant to the patient to provide information, diagnoses, and recommendations
- Build a shared understanding to empower patient decision making
- Provide an opportunity clarify and answer questions, avoid overly medicalized language