

Doctor interview checklist

Most hospitals run a short HR screen, then a panel with the head of department or medical superintendent that mixes clinical scenarios with questions on ethics and teamwork; some add a case discussion or a supervised shift.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. A patient walks into casualty with chest pain. Take me through your first ten minutes.

What it checks: Whether you follow a structured, safe approach to a possible emergency, get an early ECG, and call for senior help instead of trying to manage alone.

2. Tell me about a time you disagreed with a senior's management plan.

What it checks: Whether you can raise a safety concern respectfully and with evidence, while still respecting hierarchy and putting the patient first.

3. Why do you want to work in our hospital?

What it checks: Whether you have researched the hospital's specialties, patient load and teaching, and whether your goals fit what they offer.

4. How do you recognise that a patient on the ward is deteriorating?

What it checks: Whether you look at trends and early warning scores rather than single readings, and whether you listen to nurses and escalate early.

5. Describe a time an angry relative confronted you on the ward.

What it checks: Whether you stay calm, listen, de-escalate, keep yourself and staff safe, and address the real concern behind the anger.

6. Are you comfortable with night duties, on-call and weekend work?

What it checks: Whether you understand the reality of hospital rotas and will be reliable, while also being honest about any real constraints.

7. How do you take informed consent for a procedure?

What it checks: Whether you understand that consent is a conversation about benefits, risks and alternatives in the patient's language, not just a signature on a form.

8. Tell me about a clinical case that changed how you practise.

What it checks: Whether you reflect on cases honestly and turn lessons into concrete changes in your routine.

9. What salary do you expect for this position?

What it checks: Whether you know the market rate for your qualification and city, and can state a reasonable range without sounding rigid.

10. How do you break bad news to a patient or their family?

What it checks: Whether you have a clear, humane structure for difficult conversations and can handle emotion without rushing or hiding behind jargon.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Revise the emergency algorithms your hospital uses, such as chest pain, sepsis and stroke pathways, and be able to talk through them step by step without notes.

- Prepare four or five real cases from your postings that show safe decisions, escalation, teamwork and one honest mistake you learned from.
- Carry your registration certificate, degree, internship completion and experience letters in one clear folder, with photocopies, as many hospitals verify documents on the same day.
- Find out the hospital's specialties, bed strength and whether it is teaching or non-teaching, so your answer to "why us" sounds specific and genuine.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5-10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave