

OET Case Notes

Pharmacy · Beginner · Advice letter · to Patient

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Pharmacy — Advice on a New Antibiotic Course

THE CASE NOTES

Patient: Mrs Aisha Noor, 41 years old

Reason: Uncomplicated urinary tract infection confirmed on dipstick

Prescription: Nitrofurantoin 100 mg modified-release, twice daily for 3 days

How to take: Take with food; complete the full course even if symptoms settle early

Side effects to mention: May cause nausea and turn urine dark yellow or brown — harmless and expected

Safety net: Seek help if symptoms worsen, fever or back pain develop, or no improvement after 48 hours

General advice: Drink plenty of fluids; usual painkillers may be used for discomfort

Task: Write an advice letter to Mrs Noor explaining how to take her antibiotic and what to watch for.

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WHAT TO INCLUDE

- + **How and when to take it, and finishing the course**
The central instruction; not completing the course risks treatment failure and resistance.
- + **The harmless dark-urine side effect**
Pre-warning prevents an alarmed patient stopping the medicine unnecessarily.
- + **The safety net for worsening symptoms**
Examiners reward a clear, specific safety net in advice letters above almost any other content.

WHAT TO LEAVE OUT

- **The pharmacology of nitrofurantoin**
Mechanism detail is wrong for a patient audience and breaks the register.
- **Dipstick technicalities**
The patient needs to know what to do, not how the diagnosis was reached.

CRITERION IN FOCUS · GENRE & STYLE

Patient advice is the clearest test of register. Warm, plain, direct sentences score Genre & Style; clinical jargon or a formal professional tone aimed at the wrong reader loses it, even when every fact is correct.

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