

Question the Case

Question Perspectives

Questions to separate fact from opinion

- What evidence do we have?
 - How do we know what is true/accurate?
 - What else do we need to know to address this patient's concerns?

Questions to investigate reasons/rationales

- How can we narrow POSSIBLE causes to highly PLAUSIBLE ones?
 - How should we rule out urgent causes?
 - How did you decide to favor one theory of this case over another?
 - Explain how you arrived at your conclusions.

Questions to clarify meaning

- Which facts make you think we are taking the right approach or have reached the right conclusion?
 - How would you explain ____?
 - What does [____] mean?

Questions about perspectives & biases

- How could we (re)frame our questions?
 - Have we framed our inquiry in a way that helps or hinders us from reaching a conclusion supported by evidence?
 - How can we reframe the question to identify essential issues and questions?
 - What have you learned from assessing past cases?
 - How can prior cases inform your thinking in this case?

Questions about the question

- What kind of questions should we be asking?
 - Why do you think we should be asking this question?
 - How are you applying knowledge or reasoning in this situation?



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Question the Process

Questions to build on consultation of others

- Have you consulted with anyone yet? If not, who should you consult?
- What about this case seems unsettling or unresolved?
- Were you satisfied with how you arrived at the outcome?
- Would you have done things differently now that you've had time to reflect?
- How can we examine what we've done for cognitive error?

Questions to probe assumptions & for potential errors

- How do you know that?
- How would you find out what you need to know?
- What assumptions might you have made?
- Is there evidence to continue with your theory of the case?
- Is there another approach we could take?
- What other hypotheses might be consistent with these symptoms or patient's history?

Questions for Prospective Learning

Questions to probe implications and consequences

- What would happen to the patient if we followed this hypothesis to its conclusion?
- Are there time constraints on reaching a conclusion?
- What are the exigencies of this situation for the patient?
- What makes these exigencies?
- Were cognitive errors made?
- How could you avoid error in future situations?
- How could you make the medical decision-making process more effective? more efficient? more patient-centered?



- Sources:** Several questions were adapted from these resources:
- *Six types of Socratic questioning.* University of Michigan. <http://tinyurl.com/cmh4pcz>
 - *The role of Socratic Dialogue.* www.Criticalthinking.org