

Interrogate the Problem

Questions to separate fact from opinion

- Can we prove that?
- How do we know that's true/accurate?
- What else do we need to know to address this patient's problem?

Questions to investigate reasons/rationales

- How can we narrow POSSIBLE causes to highly PLAUSIBLE ones?
- Do we have to consider urgent causes?
- How did you decide to favor one theory of this case over another?
- Can we explain how we arrived at our conclusions?

Questions to clarify meaning

- Which facts make you think we are taking the right approach or have the right answer?
- How would you explain ____ to the patient? a colleague?

Interrogate Perspectives

Questions about perspectives & biases

- How could we (re)frame our questions?
- Is there something how we asked the question that might help or hinder us from finding an answer for this patient?
- How can we reframe the question to identify issues at stake?
- What have you learned from assessing past cases?
- How can that 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 does your reasoning apply to this situation?

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



College of Medicine

Interrogate the Process

Questions for Prospective Learning

Questions to leverage consultation

- Have you considered other ideas?
- Have you consulted with others in working on this case?
 - If not, to whom should we look for counsel on how to think about it?
- How did your colleagues' contributions to our discussion help or hinder you in addressing this situation?
- What about this case might have been unsettling?
- 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]?
- Do you think you [we] have made any assumptions? Are they reasonable?
- Is there evidence to continue with your theory of the case?
- Are there other hypotheses consistent with this set of symptoms?

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?



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