Actor Sides

**Patient:**

60 year old woman

Homeless

Uninsured

Divorced

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| **Presenting Situation**  Cough x 3 months  Heavy smoker  No other significant medical history |

***Backstory:***

Homeless for 10 years- having lost her job- see below.

Cigarette smoker since her 20s.

Doesn’t do drugs or drink alcohol.

No health insurance.

**Case Information: All Information in Red- needs to come out by actor: The rest depends upon the students’ abilities to ask the right questions. Actors can’t volunteer information. We are testing to see if students can ask the right questions.**

Progressively worsening cough x 3-4 months.

Cough productive of thick yellow sputum. Cough is worst upon waking up in the morning. Mild shortness of breath with exertion. No fever.

No history of asthma, TB, other lung or heart problems.

No recent flu or pneumonia vaccination. Has not seen a physician in over 10 years.

No medications or allergies.

Smokes 1-2 ppd x 30+ years. No alcohol or drug use.

Divorced. No children. Parents deceased. Has one sister that lives in California.

Homeless x 10 years. Lost job (parking lot attendant) and unable to make rent. Primarily lives at Ala Moana Park. Doesn’t feel safe in shelters. Works “under the table” washing dishes at a small bar in Chinatown. Uses money for food and cigarettes.

Does not have regular healthcare. No healthcare insurance.

**Physical Exam:**

Vital signs normal.

General appearance: comfortable with occasional cough.

Heart normal

Lungs: few crackles and wheezes.

Remainder of exam normal.

Possible Script- Answers/ Questions:

Need to Improvise- depending upon student questions. Remember to keep it short, talking can only last not more than 5-7 minutes, because students also have to take vitals.

Medical Students: Why are you here?

Patient: I have been coughing, for a long time. And it comes up thick yellow stuff.

Medical Student: How long have you been coughing?

Patient: About 3 months.

Medical Student: That’s a long time. Have you seen a doctor?

Patient: No. I don’t have insurance. I tried to go to Waikiki Health Center, but they were busy. If I don’t have insurance, does that mean I can’t get treated?

Medical Student: I can have your doctor discuss that with you. Do you smoke?

Patient: Yes. 1-2 packs a day, for the last 30 years. But I don’t do drugs or drink.

Medical Student: How’s your breathing?

Patient: I run out of breath, sometimes. Like a shallow breath.

Medical Student: Anything else?

Patient: No. I am just worried about paying for this. My friend said that I have to come to a doctor. She dragged me here. But I don’t know if I can pay.

Medical Student: Your doctor will be here shortly. You can discuss this with him, and our front office.

Patient: Okay.

Main Ideas:

1. Describe coughing, yellow pflegm.
2. No insurance. No regular health care.
3. Cough throughout visit.
4. History: no asthma, TB, lung or heart problems.

Both parents deceased. No children. One sister that lives in California.