

Open-Ended Questions for Social History

Use open-ended questions to ask for social history information in order to keep the conversation focused on the patient and get the most information possible in a short amount of time.

- “Where are you staying?”
- “What is your address? What apartment number?”
- “What other names do you go by? What do friends/family members call you?”
- “What is your phone number? Your cell phone?”
- “What kind of work do you do?”
- “Where do you work?”
- “What is the best time to reach you?”
- “Where is the best place to reach you?”
- “In order to keep this as private as possible, I need to know who else might answer the door or phone. Who are you staying with?”
- “Where do you go to school?”
- “In case of an emergency or if I have to contact you very quickly, who is the best person to leave a message with? What is their number?”
- “What do you do in your spare time?”
- “How many children do you have?”
- “Where have you traveled in the last (interview period)?”
- “What is your maiden name?”
- “What is your e-mail address / screen name?”