



# **Cultural Awareness Guidance for Surgeons Written and produced by Dr Margaret Murphy**

# **Cultural Competence TABLE**

# Module 2 – Politeness

### **INCLUSIVITY**

## - making the other feel included, appreciated and valued

Demonstrable Action/ Interaction	Example from Script	Effect		
Non-Verbal Language				
Makes eye- contact	-Consultant uses correct amount of eye-contact with trainee, not too much and not too little e.g. he doesn't directly look at trainee when he asks 'your ARCP – it's coming up soon, isn't it?' -Consultant, thinking, then looks at trainee).	Reduces social distances between trainer and trainee		
Stands near trainee	-Consultant scans Daycase list while standing next to trainee (not over trainee)	<ul> <li>Shows inclusivity, reduces social distance, equalises power and status, raises comfort levels of trainee.</li> </ul>		
• Smiles	-Consultant smiles at trainee, while looking at himConsultant smiles at trainee and voice is friendly and encouraging as he looks at himshe smiles as she addresses trainee)	<ul> <li>Reduces social distance and power differences, and allows trainee to feel more comfortable</li> </ul>		
Suitable facial expression	Consultant tries to be helpful, and gives trainee encouraging facial expression of 'assistance' and not 'giving a lecture'.	<ul> <li>Shows         willingness to         assist</li> <li>Encourages         trainee</li> </ul>		
Team-work	<ul> <li>Examples in dialogue:</li> <li>The consultant finds another empty room to talk in private with trainee.</li> </ul>	Trainee is valuable part of surgical team		

- The consultant pulls two chairs together to signify that they are both on same status level, making trainee feel comfortable in this potentially awkward interaction.
- The consultant also offers the trainee some coffee and as well, he gets it from the machine and gives it to him.
- The consultant only takes out his mobile phone at the end of the interaction when they need to make another time to meet up. He does not speak to trainee while simultaneously looking at/speaking into a phone while only half concentrating on the dialogue between them.
  - Consultant's voice is non-threatening, warm and enquiring and his speech is clear and slow.
  - Consultant makes a conscious effort to use simple terminologies and expressions so that the trainee, from another culture, will be more likely to understand
  - The consultant does not give lectures, or issue orders or demand answers or explanations of trainee. The consultant does not display any bullying behaviour.
  - Use of smiling by consultant engenders feelings of friendliness and approachability.

#### **Verbal Language**

 Uses inclusive and friendly language <u>Displays frequent use of the first person pronouns eq</u> <u>we, our, us</u>

#### **Examples in Dialogue:**

- '...once <u>we</u> slowly go through the steps of this procedure' and '<u>Let's</u> discuss those reasons <u>together</u> when <u>we</u> meet to go through the steps of the procedure, the one from my teaching session. <u>Would you like to do that? We</u> could look at the errors, how they occurred and <u>together</u> work out a way for a more successful appendicectomy'.
- 'I could go through the notes <u>with you</u> if you like?'
- <u>'Let's</u> see.... but I'm sure we can find a time'

- Creates feelings of inclusivity
- Reduces feelings of separation
- Reduces tension
- Now working with consultant rather than for him
- Tee more likely to take instruction

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	<ul> <li>'How do you think we can improve on some of the mistakes that happened today in the operation just now?How can we get it right, do you think?'</li> <li>'OK,good',</li> <li>'Yep The 15<sup>th</sup>?I don't see why not. (Here the consultant is willing to fit in with trainee's timetable)</li> </ul>	
Showing understand ing and empathy	Language which conveys understandings of other's situation. Communicates belief in the other, and his innate surgical ability. This is reassuring to Tee.  Examples in dialogue:  • 'Sometimes, when I'm giving demonstrations, it's easy to forget that some trainees have only just begun their training and it may be hard for them to take in everything in one go' (Shows empathy and understanding)  • 'I'd like to see you do a good appendicectomy next time, as I know you're capable of it.' (Shows belief in trainee's ability)  • 'It's a lot to take in, I know.' (Shows understanding)  • 'Do you want to go over it later on, when you've had a chance to recover?' (Shows giving trainee option to choose time to discuss)  • 'When he realises trainee's response is not forthcoming, he fills the gap by continuing in a friendly way' (Shows consultant taking control and steering the conversation when he realises it is necessary and at the right time)  • 'Taking him into a private room so others cannot overhear trainee's admissions of errors subsequent discussion of his errors'. (Shows consultant giving consideration of trainee and an understanding of his delicate situation)	<ul> <li>Fosters closeness</li> <li>Lowers anxiety levels</li> <li>Show genuine attempts to understand Tee</li> <li>Tee more likely to want to improve surgical skills</li> <li>Develops professional relationship</li> <li>Creates feelings of teamwork</li> </ul>
Joking	Making light of an interaction important to avoid loss of face and creates a positive relationship between trainer and trainee.  Examples in dialogue:  'your head is probably swimming now!' (shows consultant attempting to lighten the interaction with understanding and empathy)	<ul> <li>Lowers anxiety levels</li> <li>Increase comfort levels</li> <li>Tee feels at ease</li> <li>Learning taking place more easily</li> <li>Relationship develops</li> </ul>

	• ' But, that's my job as a trainer' (laughs).	•
Giving complimen ts	Examples in dialogue:  • 'don't forget you also did a couple of things during the procedure today that were good.' And I was impressed with that. And, as well you mobilised the appendix safelythat was good and 'your post op notes were honest and comprehensive.  Good work!' and 'Yes, you did well in certain parts' (shows consultant pointing out good points of trainee's work)	<ul> <li>Protects face of trainee</li> <li>Adds to harmony in discourse</li> <li>Assists trainee to feel valued and appreciated</li> <li>Forster good working relationships</li> </ul>
Reduces power distance	Learning can more effectively take place when there is a reduction or even an absence of power and status differences between teacher and learner. Sometimes, such differences between trainer and trainee, if not addressed, actually inhibit learning and positive interactions  Examples in dialogue:  • The consultant finds another empty room to talk in private with trainee.	<ul> <li>Shows         willingness to         help trainee,</li> <li>Ensures trainee         has understood</li> <li>Ensures teaching         can easily add         onto prior         knowledge.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The consultant pulls two chairs together to signify that they are both on same status level, making trainee feel comfortable in this potentially awkward interaction.</li> <li>The consultant also offers the trainee some coffee and as well, he gets it from the machine and gives it to him.</li> <li>The consultant only takes out his mobile phone at the end of the interaction when they need to make another time to meet up. He does not speak to trainee while simultaneously looking at/speaking into a phone while only half concentrating on the dialogue between them.</li> <li>Consultant's voice is non-threatening, warm and enquiring and his speech is clear and slow.</li> <li>Consultant makes a conscious effort to use simple terminologies and expressions so that the</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Encourages         trainee to ask for         further         information or to         volunteer         innermost         thoughts.</li> <li>Aids inclusivity         and flattens         hierarchies.</li> <li>Adds to comfort         levels of trainee         and consultant</li> </ul>

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