## First Clinical Attachment (Module 2)/Society & Health Essay

**Title**

Discuss experiences of health care and the factors that may influence patient satisfaction. Use your own experience, the experience of patients you have met on your placement and patient visits and the experiences of people you have spoken to in your satisfaction survey. You should relate this to relevant topics from FCA and Society & Health courses and to some of the relevant literature.

Your essay should include:

* An account of an actual experience of health care described by patients
* A consideration of the patient’s satisfaction:
  + The factors that influenced satisfaction or dissatisfaction with health care in your chosen example
  + Satisfaction survey:
    - A brief summary of your findings (supporting tables and graphs can also be included in the Appendix)
    - Similarities and differences between findings from different settings
    - How your findings compare with the literature on patient satisfaction
* A consideration of how your account of a patient’s experience relates to ONE of the following TWO sociological concepts:
  + EITHER health inequalities
  + OR deviance

**The sociological topic**

**Deviance:** Using your chosen example, you should discuss how the patient’s past or present behaviour could be classified as deviant. For instance, you could illustrate how the perception of risk by the patient may differ from that of their doctor, of society and/or from your own.

**OR**

**Health inequalities:** the largest gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived deciles of the male population in England is found in the Borough of Chelsea & Westminster. Using your account of a patient’s experience, you should demonstrate how social inequalities in health are produced (see Bartley M and Blane D. Chapter 8: *Inequality and Social Class*. In: 'Scambler G (ed) (2008) Sociology as Applied to Medicine, 6th edition. London: Saunders.)

**Maximum word count**

2000 words, this does not include references or diagrams which should be put in an appendix. Penalties apply for excess words beyond 10% of the maximum.

**Marks**

The mark awarded for this essay will count 13% of the total FCA marks (which is 6.5% of the FOCP mark).

**Confidentiality**

All information that you obtain from patients, of whatever nature, is strictly confidential. Therefore, in your notes and final submission, please use only the initials of people you have been interviewing to preserve their anonymity.

### Marking scheme for essay

Essay includes factors from: Own experience

Patient experience

Clinic placement

Survey results

Essay contrasted findings from different settings

**(1 mark for each, total 5 marks)**

Essay includes More than 3 relevant pieces of literature quoted on patient satisfaction

The use of recent literature

Correct referencing (Vancouver Method)

**(3 marks total)**

Essay Well written, arguments flow well

At metacognitive level, has ability to reflect on material and make conclusions form it rather than just state it

**(2 marks)**

**Society and health part**

Three marks overall:

1 marks for the explanation of the chosen sociological concept (health inequalities or deviance)

1 mark for explaining why the chosen concept is relevant to primary care

1 mark for illustrating the concept with a patient case

Explanation of the Chosen Sociological Concept:

EITHER *Health Inequalities*:

The student will need to demonstrate an understanding of the fact that people’s health is strongly determined by the conditions in which they live and work and also by their lifestyle. Students who only explain health inequalities based on patterns in people’s behaviour loose the mark.

The student should comment on one or more of the Social Determinants of Health and Health inequalities including (WHO Solid Facts 2010):

1. The social gradient: life expectancy varies not only between the highest and the lowest socioeconomic grades but also displays a gradient across the range of SE classes.

2. Stress

3. Early life

4. Social exclusion

5. Work

6. Unemployment

7. Social support

8. Addiction

9. Food

10. Transport

The student may relate their observations on health inequalities to their knowledge of the local area of NW Central London, with the highest male life expectancy of the country, in Kensington and Chelsea. Also the largest gap between the groups that live in the areas of highest and lowest deprivation (by quintiles) is found in the Borough of Kensington. The student may also reflect on the population structure: 2 main groups including young single affluent professionals, and deprived families in council housing. The reflection should translate an understanding of the material in a sensitive manner without inappropriate or judgmental comments.

OR *Deviance*

Biological normality implies placing an individual in the context of population distribution.

Biological normality in medicine is defined:

* statistically (e.g. >2 standard deviations from the mean), or
* Functionally (e.g. inability to do something), or
* Based on risk (e.g. predict prognosis)

It is an essential concept for effective diagnosis and management.

Social normality:

* Expectations of behaviours
* If not normal ->“deviant” (some defined in law)
* What is “normal” varies (by group, over time)
* Social “abnormality” sometimes labelled “disease” (through the process of medicalization)

(students may give historical examples of the classification of homosexuality or drapetomania as mental health conditions requiring treatment)

The significance of deviance is that norms and deviance in society are also the basis for stigma.

Stigma refers to a condition, attribute or behaviour which is viewed negatively and makes the bearer “deviant” in a particular society.

Normality is the basis of surveillance medicine.

* Surveillance shows some health risks vary by social groups (e.g. HIV, obesity)
* Focus on those groups can enhance stigma
* For many patients the stigma attached to their disease is as incapacitating as the disease itself

Clinicians can reinforce stigma

**Total = 13 marks**

**Penalties**

The essay deadline is 5pm on 22nd March 2013.

# If you miss the deadline without an extension given by the course lead, 5 marks will be subtracted per day, thus if it 4 days late or more you will receive zero marks.

If the essay is 10% more than the word count a 2 mark penalty will be applied

**Reference texts for Sociological components:**

*Deviance*:

Scambler G (2008). Chapter 12: The limits and boundaries to medical knowledge and chapter 13: Deviance, sick role and stigma. In: Scambler, Graham (ed.). Sociology as applied to medicine. 6th Edition. W B Saunders. London. Pages 205-220.

*Health Inequalities*:

Bartley M and Blane D. Ch 8: Inequality and social Class. In: Sociology as applied to medicine. Scambler G (ed.). 6th Edition. W B Saunders. London. Pp 115-132.