General Pathology, Microbiology and ID - **Monday 18th February**

How Infection Spreads: How it is Interrupted

Pre talk case for consideration

In December 2012, a 23 year old man returned to his GP five days after an initial visit for a follow up review. At the first visit he reported a dry cough and fever with some aches and pains. He had waited for approximately 25 minutes in the waiting room on the first occasion before seeing first the nurse (it was his first ever visit to the surgery) and then after about ten minutes seeing the GP, a female registrar in training. As the annual flu season was in progress, the doctor thought that the symptoms were consistent with influenza, noted that the patient was not in a risk group for complications of flu and thus had not been vaccinated, nor did warrant treatment for flu. She gave the recommended advice for influenza self-care and outlined the sort of symptoms that should prompt him to seek medical advice again. On the day before the second visit he had developed a rash, which had started around his neck and face and spread over his chest and back and now on the day of his review on this second visit, was widespread affecting most of his body. He had also developed red runny eyes, the cough persisted. One of the GP partners was scheduled to review him, and when the receptionist checked the patient in she noticed his rash brought him directly to the doctor's room. The GP takes a history, examines the patient, performs a diagnostic test and makes a phone call.

Consider:

What are the possible infection causes for this young man's syndrome of fever and rash?

Which of these are transmissible easily in the GP's waiting room?

What advice does the doctor need to give to:

1. the affected patient (think about advice re managing the infection and preventing transmission)
2. the female registrar who reveals that she is 14 weeks pregnant
3. the nurse who did the assessment during the first visit

If this is caused by a transmissible infection, whom might the GP have phoned?

What diagnostic test could help?