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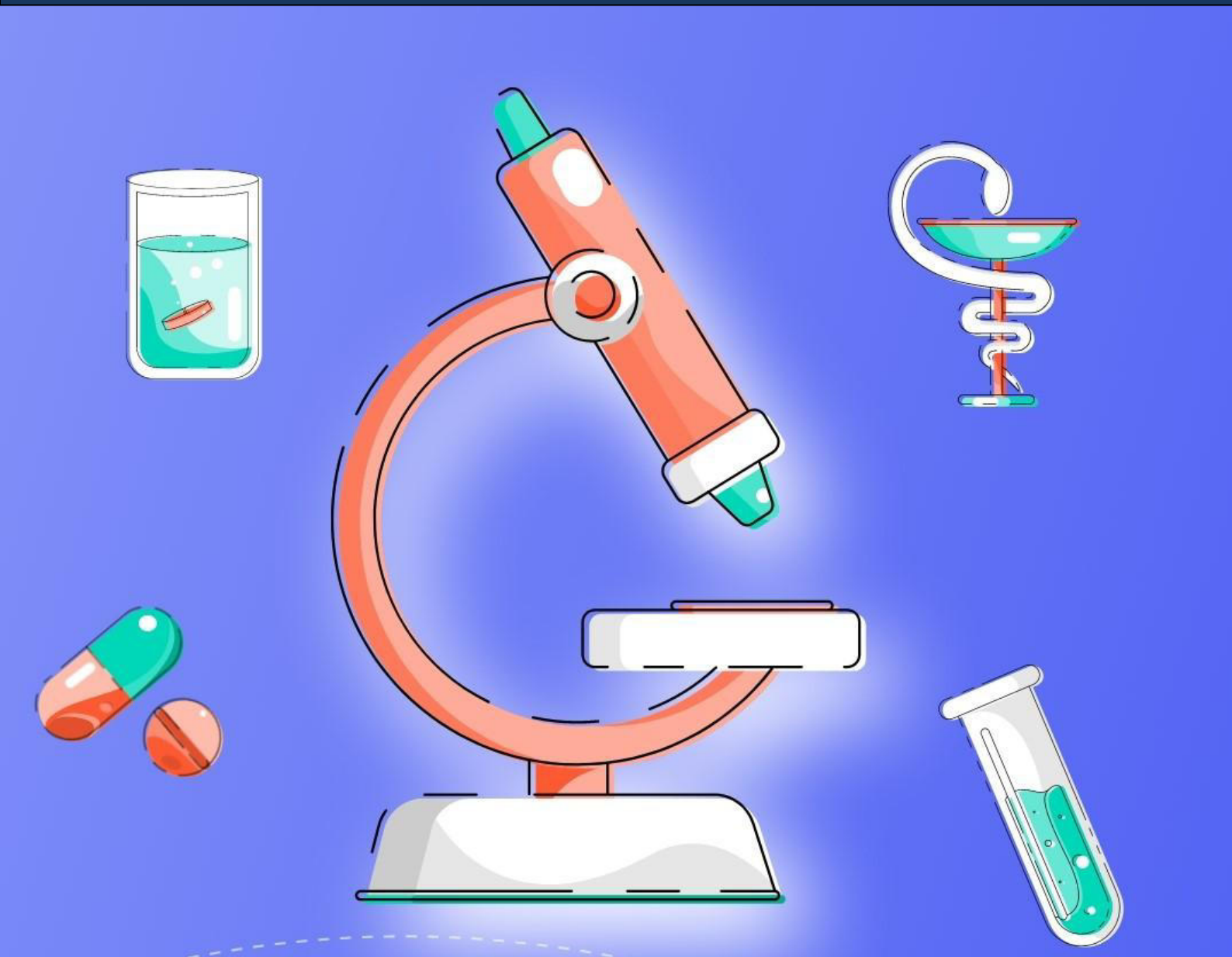
TÜRKİYE ULUSAL AJANSI
TURKISH NATIONAL AGENCY

B1 Level / Unit 2

Interpretation of Medical Documentation



VSL on Medicine

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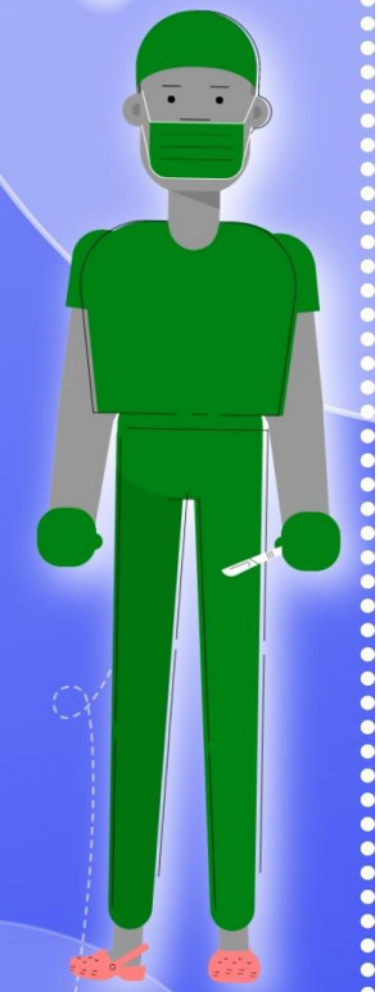


2. Interpretation of Medical Documentation

2.1. Practice interpreting medical documents, such as medical records, exam reports, prescriptions, etc.

2.2. Development of skills to read and understand technical information

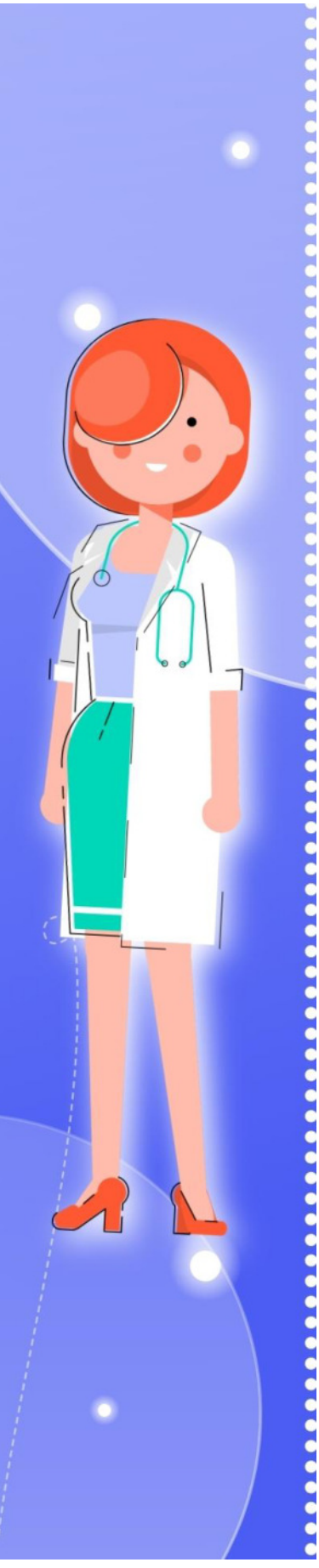
A. Steps for Interpretation of Medical Documentation

1. **Preparation**
   - Document Review: Before the interpretation session, review the medical documentation to fully understand the content and technical terms.
   - Familiarization with the Patient: Learn about the patient's medical history, communication preferences, and any specific vocabulary they might use.

2. **Contextualization**
   - Introduction: Start by explaining the purpose of the medical documentation, such as test results, prescriptions, or diagnoses.
   - Clarification of Terms: Use specific signs in sign language to represent medical terms and explain each one simply, ensuring the patient understands.

3. **Translation**
   - Accuracy: Translate the content of the documentation faithfully, maintaining the precision of medical terms.
   - Clarity: Use clear and easily understandable signs. For complex terms, provide additional explanations.
   - Visuals and Diagrams: Use drawings, diagrams, or images if necessary to illustrate parts of the body or medical procedures.

4. **Understanding Check**
   - Questions: Ask the patient if they understand the information. Encourage them to ask questions about any part of the documentation.
   - Repetition: Repeat or rephrase the information as needed until the patient shows clear understanding.



5. Notes and Summaries

- Summary: Provide a summary of the main information, highlighting important points such as medication instructions, appointment dates, or warning signs.
- Personal Notes: Assist the patient in making notes or record important information in an accessible format for future reference.

B. Example of Medical Documentation Interpretation

Document: Blood Test Results
Original: • Hemoglobin: 13.5 g/dL • Glucose: 95 mg/dL • Total Cholesterol: 190 mg/dL • LDL: 120 mg/dL • HDL: 45 mg/dL
Interpretation in Sign Language
1. Hemoglobin • Sign: LGP; LIS, TID • Explanation: "Hemoglobin is a protein in the blood that carries oxygen. The value is 13.5, which is within the normal range."
2. Glucose • Sign: LGP; LIS, TID • Explanation: "Glucose is the sugar in the blood. The value is 95, which is normal."
3. Total Cholesterol • +Sign: LGP; LIS, TID • Explanation: "Cholesterol is the fat in the blood. The total is 190, which is acceptable."
4. LDL (bad cholesterol) • Sign: LGP; LIS, TID • Explanation: "LDL is the bad cholesterol. The value is 120. It needs to be monitored to avoid increasing."
5. HDL (good cholesterol)

- Sign: LGP; LIS, TID
- Explanation: "HDL is the good cholesterol. The value is 45. It's good, but can increase with exercise."

6. Urea

- Sign: LGP; LIS, TID
- Explanation: “Urea is a kidney-related test. Your value is 60. The normal value is up to 45. Your kidneys are fine, but your high test may be related to the fact that you have not drunk enough water. You should drink more water. It is important to drink enough water to protect the kidneys.”

7. Creatinine

- Sign: LGP; LIS, TID
- Explanation: “Creatinine is is a kidney-related test. Your value is 1.8. The normal value of this test is up to 1,2. We should monitor your kidneys closely.”

8. AST (Aspartate Transaminase)

- Sign: LGP; LIS, TID
- Explanation: “AST is primarily a liver-related test. Your AST level can sometimes be elevated in other situations. Your value is 45. The normal value for this test is up to 35. You may have a liver disease that can elevate it, or a constant use of painkillers may cause this elevation. Let's do this test again one month later.”

9. ALT (Alanine Transaminase)

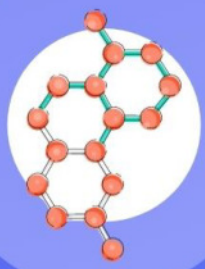
- Sign: LGP; LIS, TID
- Explanation: “ALT is primarily a test of the liver. Your value is 30. The normal value of this test is up to 35.”

10. GGT (Gamma Glutamyl Transpeptidase)

- Sign: LGP; LIS, TID
- Explanation: “GGT is primarily a test of the biliary tract. Your value is 95. The normal value of this test is up to 55. This test can be elevated in case of alcohol use disorders. It can also be elevated if there is a blockage in the biliary tract. Do you drink alcohol? You may have stone in the biliary tract. You should have an ultrasound.”

11. Leukocyte Count

- Sign: LGP; LIS, TID



- 1st Explanation: “The normal leucocyte count determined by blood count is up to 10000. Your result was 20000. You may have a bacterial infection. You may also have a fever. We will examine this.”
- 2nd Explanation: “Your result was 95000. This requires further examination. There seems to be an overproduction of cells in your bone marrow. We will first do a peripheral smear with a drop of blood from your fingertip, and depending on the result, we may need to take a biopsy of the bone marrow.”

  Do you have fatigue?
  Do you have night sweats?
  Do you have weight loss?
  I would also like to ask some questions about genetic predisposition.