



5 Open-Ended Questions Your Intake Forms Need

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
[5 things missing from your intake form \(that you should add ASAP\)](#)

Open-ended questions can help improve the quality of care that your patients receive, which is why they're important to include on any intake forms. Aside from the general, "Can you tell us anything more?" here are a few open-ended questions you can include on your intake forms.

1. Does your visit need to be modified in any way? (Wheelchair access, larger room space, lighting needs, etc.)

This is a good question to include for patients that suffer from a variety of conditions that may impact how they operate within your physical clinic space. For example, someone with claustrophobia may not be comfortable in your smallest clinic room. It's important to add a disclaimer that states you won't always be able to accommodate these requests.

2. Have you received care for similar conditions at any other clinic or practice?

Patients may or may not have medical files that you can request from other clinics, but if they don't, you may be able to gather a basic medical history based on previous clinics they were seen at and what types of treatments or procedures they received.

3. Is there anything about your impending visit that makes you anxious?

For a significant portion of the population, fear and anxiety (sometimes known as "White Coat Syndrome") prevents them from getting vital medical care. They may be too anxious in person to answer questions in the patient interview or they may forget responses or medications they're taking.

4. Are there any medical concerns we should know about that are not related to your first visit?

Sometimes patients will seek care for one issue at a time and fail to include important information about other medical concerns that might impact their care. Asking if there are any (perceived) non-related medical concerns may help improve their visit as well as their diagnosis.

5. Are there any cultural or religious practices or concerns we should be aware of that may impact your care?

Some patients may not seek medical care due to religious or cultural concerns. While it's not necessary to ascertain this information beforehand, it can help guide the patient experience, ease anxieties on behalf of the patient, and provide doctors with the opportunity to address any special concerns before meeting the patient the first time.