



Unspeakable Answers to Patients' Questions Part 2*

*** After the good feedback Hobbit has received from the first "Unspeakable Answers to Patients' Questions", the halfling comes up with the second installment.**

Q: (Patient comes into consultation room to seek treatment for lump at anus.) Must I take off my pants and my underwear?

UA: Of course lah! What do I look like to you? Superman with X-ray vision? Do I look like I can see through your pants?

Q: Doctor, I have a fever. Although your thermometer clearly indicates that my body temperature is 36.9°C, I'm still running a fever because my normal temperature is usually lower than that.

UA: You a lizard or something?

Q: How come yesterday you never come to work? The nurse said you sick. How come doctors also can get sick one meh?

UA: Hello, doctors are also human beings you know.

Q: Doctor, don't charge me so expensive hor. I got no money. By the way, what do you think of the Dove moisturising body wash for my dry skin?

UA: #%^\$*@! I also cannot afford to buy Dove but you can. Yet you want me to give you discount?

Q: My Chinese sinseh say I need to take one week's rest. Can I have MC for one week?

UA: Why don't you ask your Chinese sinseh to write for you? Better still, might as well ask for two weeks!

Q: Can you tell me why my specialist doctor gave me so many types of medicine?

UA: I don't have the full details of your condition. It's best that you ask him.

Q: But he's very busy!

UA: And I am not? I have 20 patients waiting outside my room and you've been sitting here for 15 minutes already!

Q: I have a sore throat and I feel breathless. My little finger is painful and so is my knee. I feel funny in my stomach. My heart is beating very fast... sometimes only. My ears are ringing... and oh yes! I passed out some blood this morning. What's wrong with me?

UA: With your complaints, I'll have to go through respiratory, musculoskeletal, GIT, cardiovascular and neurological systems! And then I have to do per rectal examination on top of everything! Can you maybe go see the GP next door?

Q: Doctor, what is wrong with me?

A: Don't worry, you've probably caught a virus.

Q: What's a virus?

A: It's a type of micro-organism.

Q: What's a micro-organism?

UA: Excuse me, but this is really not a lesson in microbiology you know. Much as I'd like to teach you, but then again, where do I start?

Q: Can you prescribe exactly these types of medicine for me? Whenever I am down with such problems, my regular doctor always gives me these medication. But then his clinic is too crowded, very difficult to wait, so I hop over here because I see your clinic got nobody.

UA: Honesty is maybe the best policy, but do you have to be so damn blunt?

Q: Doctor, when I saw you for diarrhoea yesterday, I didn't have vomiting. Today I still got diarrhoea but I also vomited once. Is it your medicine too strong?

UA: Hello friend, if my medicine is too strong, your diarrhoea would have stopped already.

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Q: My cough is mainly at night. So is it “cold cough” or “hot cough”?

A: In Western medicine, we do not classify coughs that way. But from hearsay, night coughs are equivalent to “cold cough”.

Q: But then “cold cough” produces white phlegm, but my phlegm is green! Why like that?

UA: I don't know... Maybe global warming's got something to do with it?

Q: Doctor, can I have 30 tablets of my diabetes medicine, but I only want 20 tablets for my high blood because I still got leftover. My cholesterol one 10 tablets enough already because I don't take everyday even though you advised me to. And don't forget my vitamins and calcium – those very important. I take everyday. And then I need gastric, headache, giddy, runny nose and “wind” medicines for standby. And don't forget my cough mixture – one red, one black.

UA: Why don't I pass you my pen and then you can write down the orders yourself? I'll just sign at the bottom corner when you have finished...

Q: How come you doctors take char kuay teow complete with the lard bits when you always advise your patients to cut down on fatty foods?

UA: That's because as doctors, we get free samples of lipid-lowering drugs which we pop prn...

Q: Can I have some more of the painkiller that you gave the last time? It was really effective!

A: I'm sorry but that drug's been withdrawn from the market.

Q: Oh dear! Any idea how I can get hold of some?

UA: Actually I still have some at home which I am keeping for my private consumption. No way I'm going to share them with you...

Mother to child patient in consultation room:
Quick, greet the doctor!

Child, obligingly: Good morning Uncle!

Mother, embarrassingly: This one Auntie, not Uncle!

Politically correct response: Never mind, it's because my hair very short, that's why.

UA: Maybe you should get the kid's eyes checked... ■