4. Psychosocial Stressors

Related Core CFI Questions: 7, 9, 10, 12

GUIDE TO INTERVIEWER: The aim of these questions is to further clarify the stressors that have aggravated the problem or otherwise affected the health of the individual. (Stressors that initially caused the problem are covered in the module on Explanatory Models.) In the examples below, the individual’s own words should be used to replace “[STRESSORS]”. If there are multiple stressors, each relevant stressor can be explored.

INTRODUCTION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL BEING INTERVIEWED: You have told me about some things that make your [PROBLEM] worse. I would like to learn more about that.

1. Are there things going on that have made your [PROBLEM] worse, for example, difficulties with family, work, money, or something else? Tell me more about that.
2. How are the people around you affected by these [STRESSORS]?
3. How do you cope with these [STRESSORS]?
4. What have other people suggested about coping with these [STRESSORS]?
5. What else could be done about these [STRESSORS]?

GUIDE TO INTERVIEWER: Patients may be reluctant to discuss areas of their life they consider sensitive, which may vary across cultural groups. Asking specific questions may help the patient discuss these stressors. Insert questions about relevant stressors here. For example:

7. Have you experienced discrimination or been treated badly as a result of your background or identity? By background or identity I mean, for example, the communities you belong to, the languages you speak, where you or your family are from, your racial or ethnic background, your gender or sexual orientation, and your faith or religion. Have these experiences had an impact on [STRESSORS] or your [PROBLEM]?