The Equation of Medical Knowledge

¶ 6.1



Knowledge x (Care) = Better Patient, Carer, Judge

Knowledge x (Carelessness) = Worry, False Confidence, Harm

Medical knowledge quickly touches real decisions about real people. This is how to use it well.

The Patient Partnership Matrix

¶ 6.2



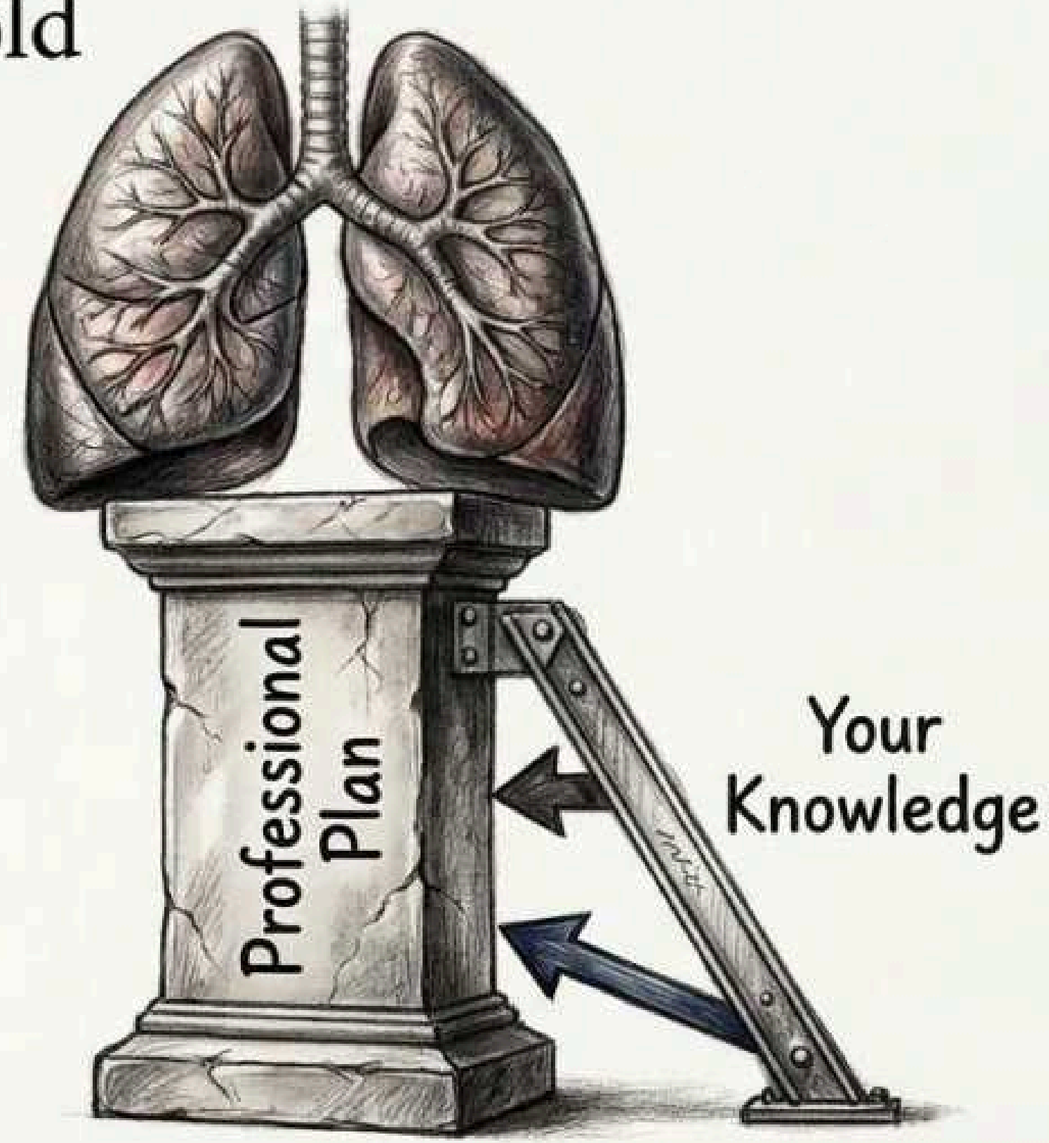
The 4 Essential Inquiries

1. Purpose (What is this test looking for?)	**2. Options** (What are the alternatives, including doing nothing?)
3. Calculus (What are the specific benefits and risks of each?)	**4. Threshold** (What specific signs should make me come back sooner?)

A patient who asks these questions is not a nuisance; they are helping their doctor help them.

The Caregiver's Scaffold

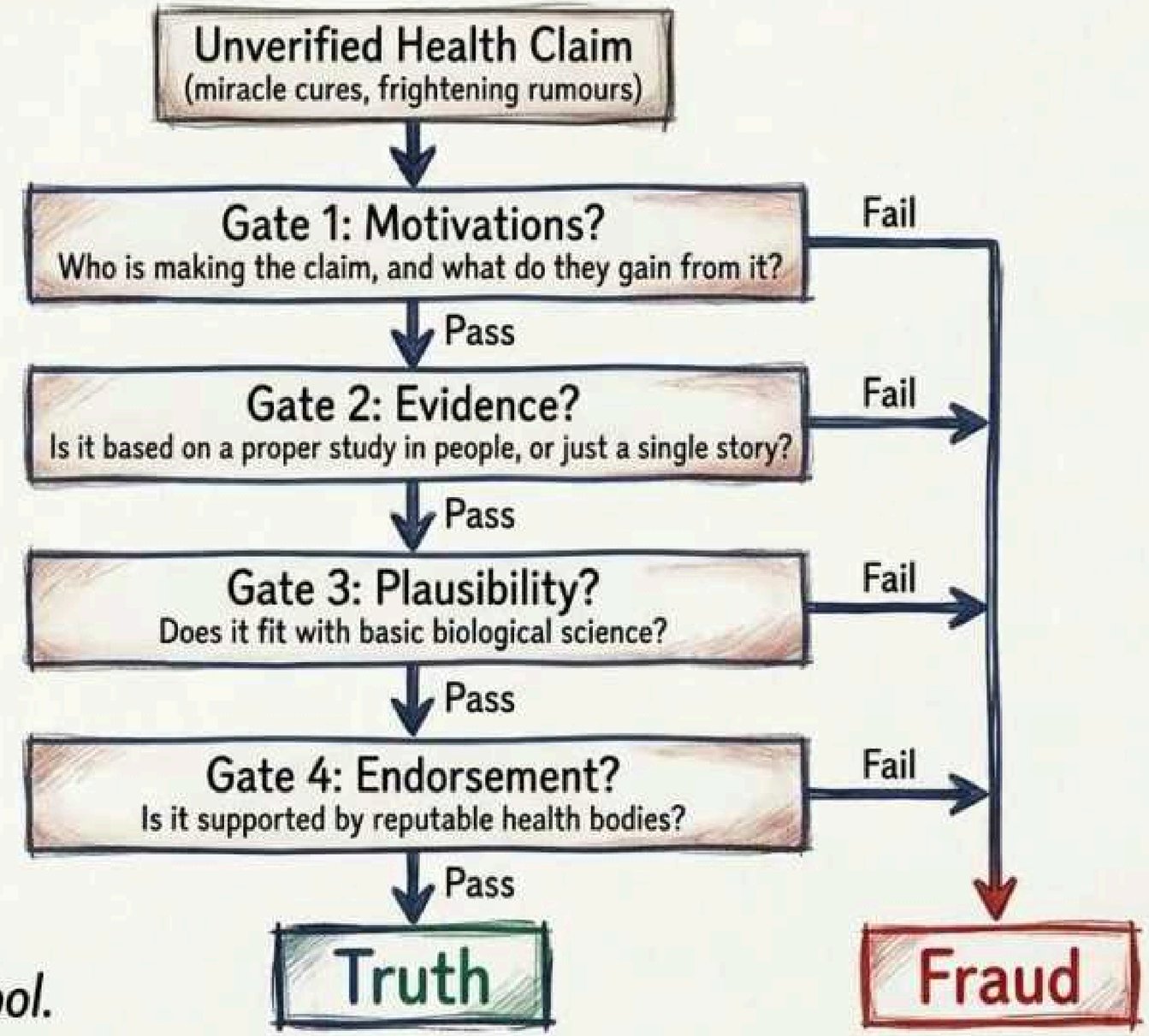
¶ 6.3



SUPPORT the plan ≠ REPLACE the plan

The Misinformation Filter

¶ 6.4



A person who asks these questions is very hard to fool.

Caution I: The Observer Effect

¶ 6.5



Studying a Disease + Recognizing Symptoms in Yourself = Medical Student Syndrome

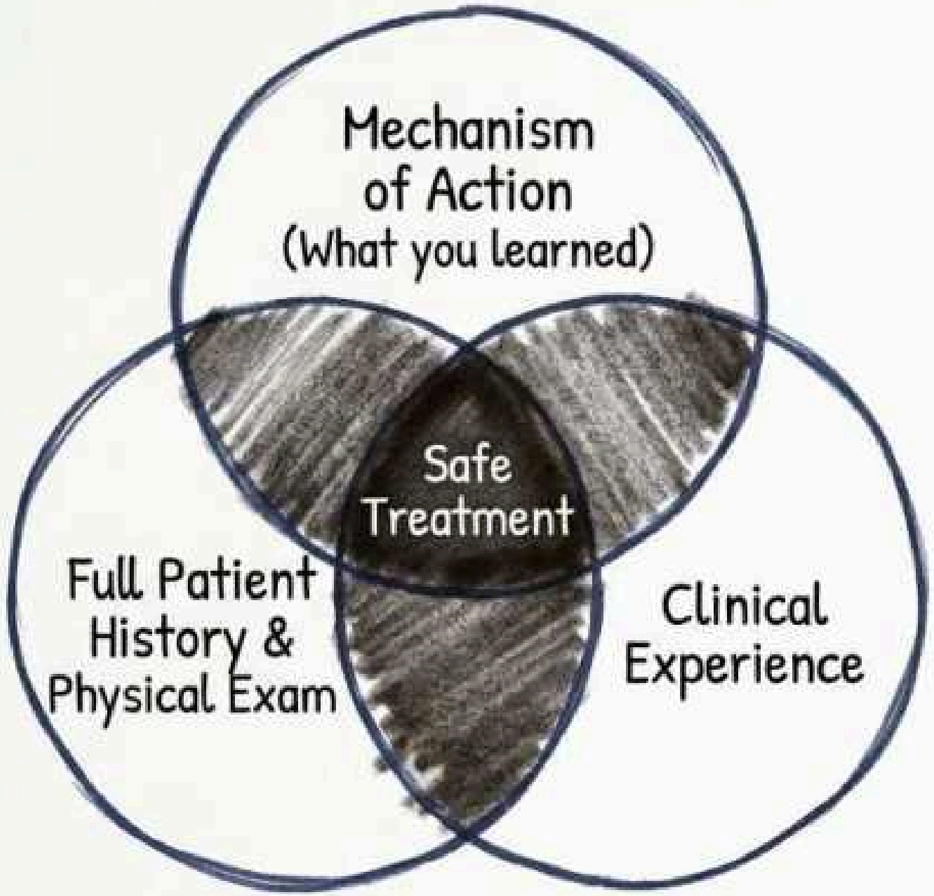
1. Real Worry → Seek Professional Help

2. Real Worry → Study Harder

Recognize the feeling for what it is. If f anything feels urgent, seek help at once.

Caution II: The Missing Variables

¶ 6.6

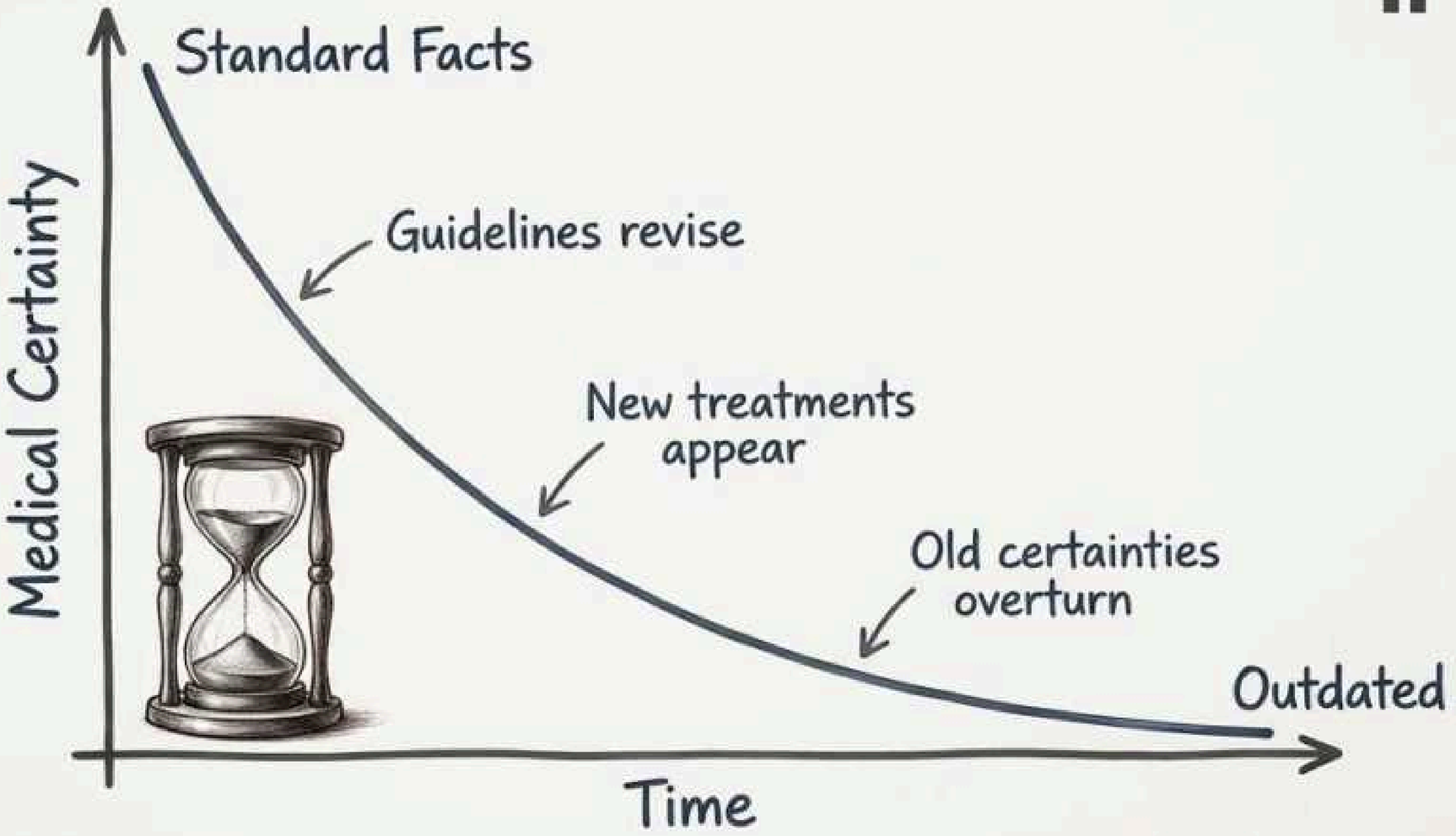




Never start, stop, or change a medicine on the strength of this course.
Speak to the doctor or pharmacist who knows the patient.

Caution III: The Half-Life of Facts

¶ 6.7

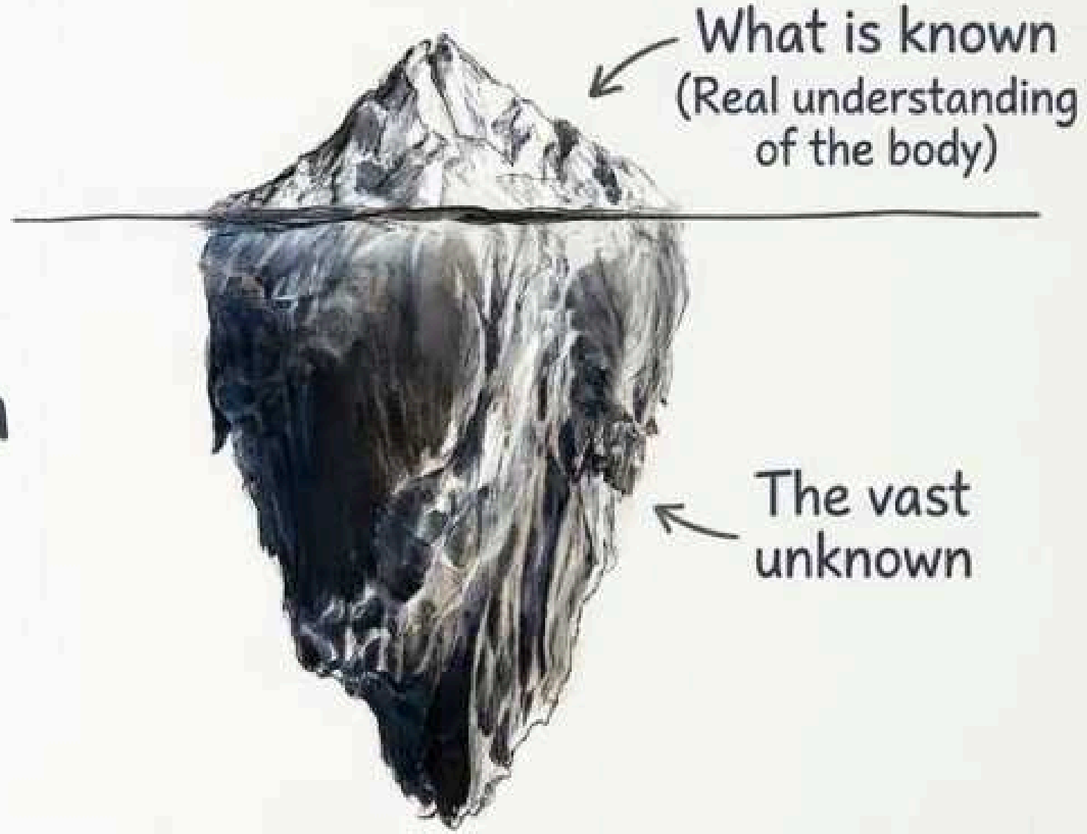


Treat this course as a foundation. Always check anything that matters against current, reputable sources.

The Limit of Expertise

¶ 6.8

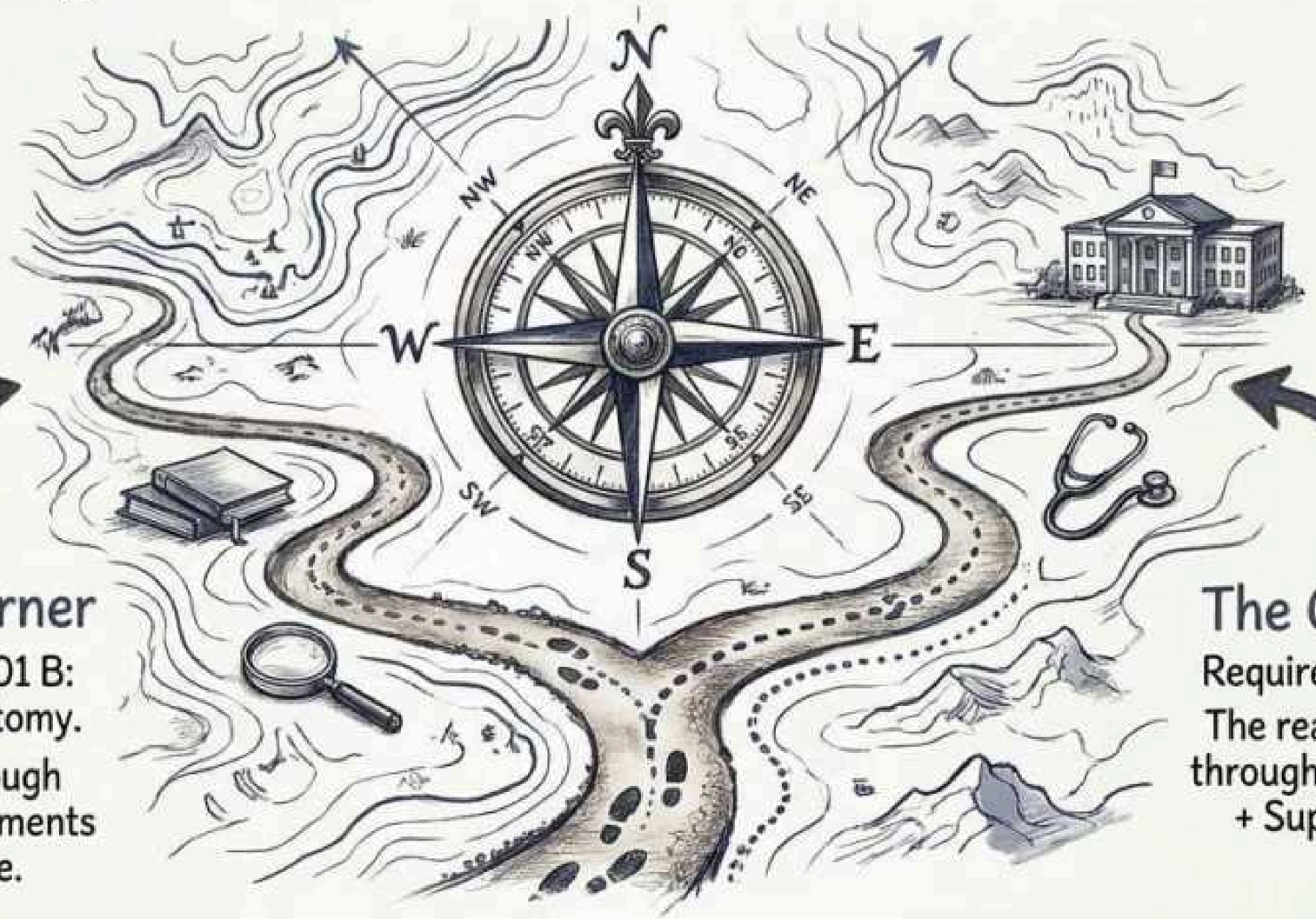
$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \left(\frac{\text{Awareness of Unknown} \to \infty}{(\text{Safety})} \right) = \text{Maximum}$$



Physicians carry a deep respect for how much they do not know. Knowing the limits of your knowledge is itself a kind of expertise.

The Diverging Path

¶ 6.9



Path A: The Lifelong Learner

Proceed to Medicine 501 B: Human Functional Anatomy.

Enjoy the journey through one of the great achievements of human knowledge.

Path B: The Career Track

Requires formal guidance.

The real path runs strictly through Accredited Schools + Supervised Training.

These courses provide an honest first taste, but the real path requires formal guidance.

Parallel Tracks

¶ 6.10

Track 1: The Physician

(Walks the path of clinical practice)



Track 2: The Student

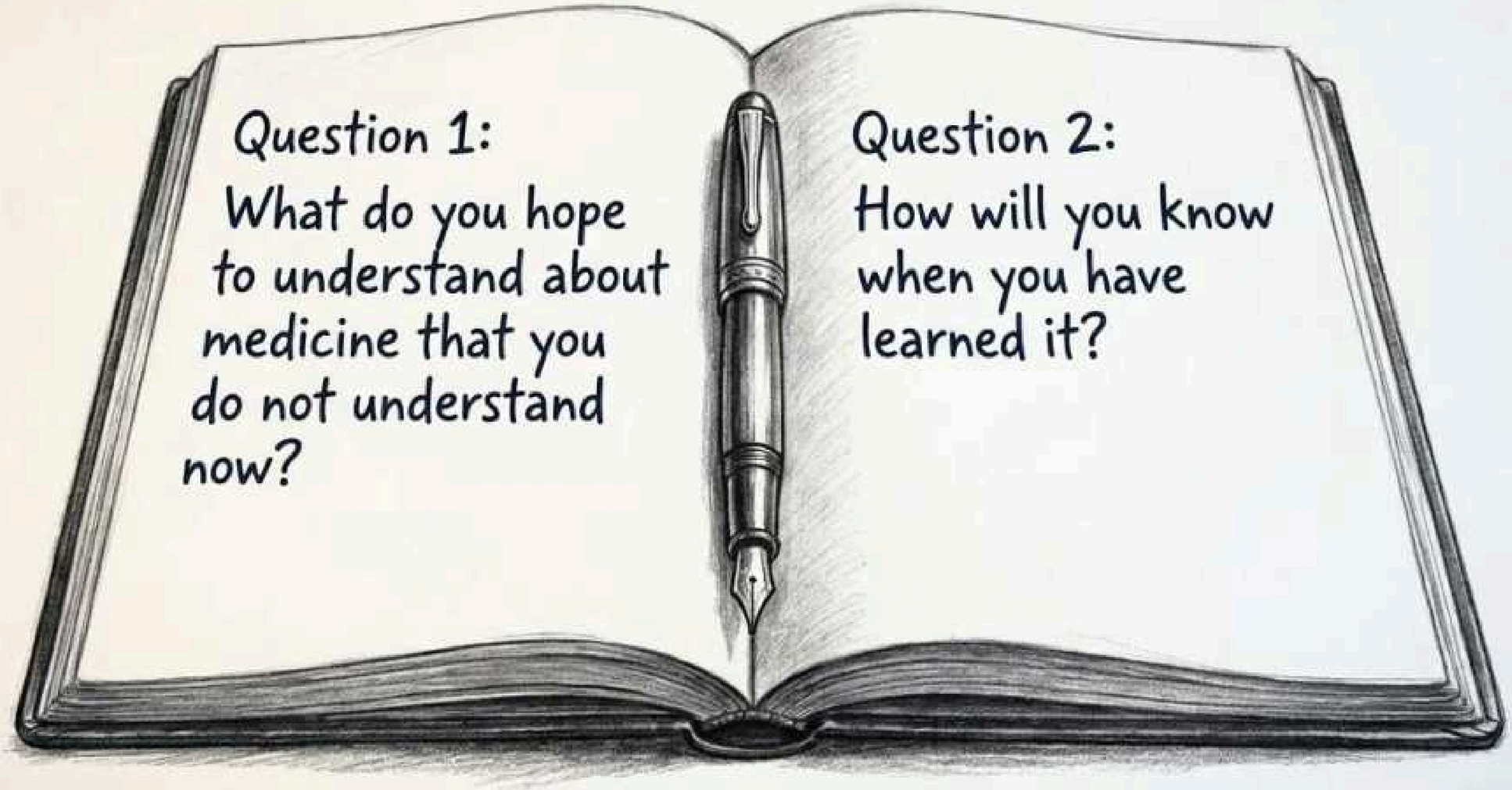
(Walks the path of knowledge in outline, in the same order, with the same respect for evidence)

The Three Free Gifts of the Course:

1. Understand your own body.	2. Care for the people you love.	3. Think more clearly about health.

The Blank Slate

¶ 6.11



Write down your answer. Keep it beside you as you begin Medicine 501 B.

¶ 6.12

Thank you for taking Medicine 500 B.

