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SECTION A

An introduction to the OSCE		1
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The OSCE can be adopted as an assessment tool in any situation or phase of education where an assessment of the learner's clinical or practical skills is important.

5 What is assessed in an OSCE?

The OSCE can be used to assess a range of learning outcomes, including communication skills, physical examination, practical procedures, problem solving, clinical reasoning, decision making, attitudes and ethics and other competencies or abilities.

SECTION B

Implementation of an OSCE

Choosing a format for an OSCE

Flexibility is a major advantage of the OSCE. Many factors influence the choice of format. These include the number of examinees, the purpose of the examination, the learning outcomes to be assessed, the resources available and the context of the local situation.

The setting for an OSCE

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The OSCE can be located in a range of settings. The selection of a venue will depend on the nature of the examination and the local circumstances.

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8 The patient

Patients in an OSCE may be represented by real or simulated patients, computer representations, video recordings, medical records and investigation results or a combination of all these. Each has a specific role to play.

9 The examiner

CONTENTS

Health professionals, simulated patients and students can serve as examiners in an OSCE. Their roles and responsibilities should be defined and training provided.

10 Implementing an OSCE

There are 'good' and 'bad' OSCEs. Advance planning and effective organisation on the day are necessary to deliver a 'good' OSCE.

11 Evaluating the examinee's performance

Different approaches can be adopted for assessing performance in an OSCE, making pass/fail decisions and setting standards.

12 Providing feedback to the learner

The OSCE can be a powerful learning experience, and a variety of approaches can be adopted for the

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provision of feedback to the learner.

13 The examinee's perspective

Communicating with learners about the OSCE is important. Examinees can prepare for and maximise their performance during an OSCE.

14 Evaluating an OSCE

Evaluation and quality control of an OSCE is important, and constant monitoring and improvement are necessary.

15 Costs and implementing an OSCE with limited resources

The resources required and the costs incurred can be tailored to the local situation. The OSCE can, but need not, be expensive to administer. Many OSCEs are run at little or no additional cost.

SECTION C

Some final thoughts

16 Limitations of the OSCE

The OSCE has an important role to play in the examiner's toolkit alongside other assessment approaches. If recognised, the limitations of the OSCE can be addressed. 193

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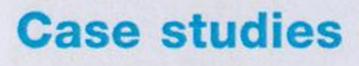
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17 Conclusions and looking to the future

The OSCE will continue to evolve and have a major role to play in response to changes in medical education.

SECTION D



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SECTION E

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SECTION F

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