

The Objective Structured Clinical Examination; The OSCE: Creating your own reliable and valid assessment tool.

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Background: A reliable and valid assessment of clinical competence has become an increasingly important area in medical education. Clinical competence encompasses elements such as history taking, examination skills, skills in practical procedures, communication, collaboration, problem solving ability and management skills among others. The objective structured clinical examination, the OSCE is now used widely in undergraduate and post-graduate education because of its reliability and validity. In an OSCE the candidates rotate sequentially around a series of structured cases in which specific tasks have to be performed. The marking scheme is structured and determined in advance. There is a time limit for each station, after which the candidates have to move on to the next station. The basic structure of an OSCE may be varied but the fundamental principle is that every candidate has to complete the same assignments in the same amount of time and is marked according to a structured marking scheme.

Intended Outcome: The participants will learn the basic principles of an OSCE. The reliability, validity, educational impact and acceptability will be reviewed. The workshop will help participants design their own OSCE stations as the blueprinting and elements of the OSCE design will be reviewed.

Structure: Didactic plus hands on OSCE design

Intended Audience: Educators/Assessors undergraduate and post graduate medical education

Level of workshop: intermediate