



What is OSCE?

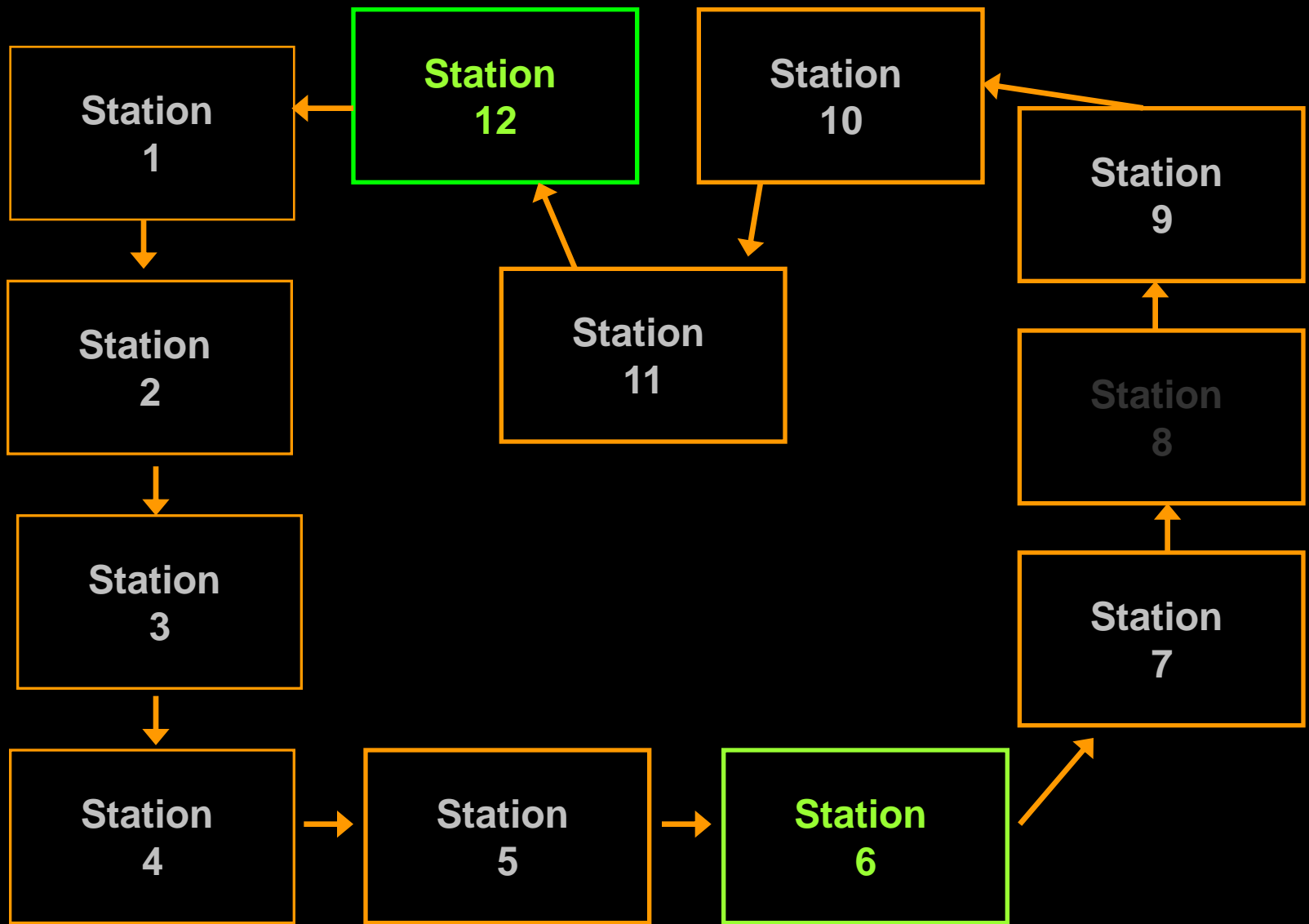
Objective Structured Clinical Examination

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

Description

OSCE consists of **multiple stations** (usually 15-20) where each candidate is asked to perform a **defined task** such as taking a focused **history or performing** a focused **examination of a particular system**.

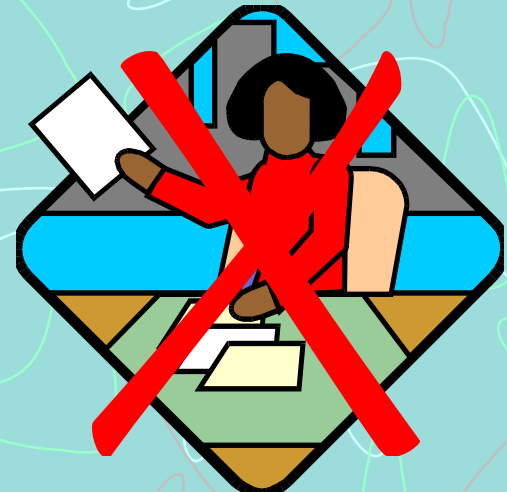
A standardized marking scheme specific for each case is used.

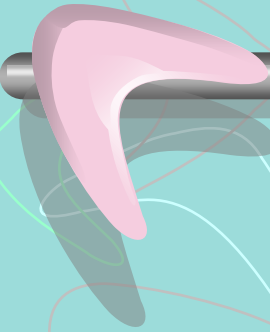


Example of 10 station OSCE accommodating 12 students

What is an OSCE?

Objective – candidates have to demonstrate their skills, not just describe the theory





OSCEs - Objective

- All the candidates are presented with the same test



OSCEs - Structured

- The marking scheme for each station is structured
- Structured interaction between examiner and student



OSCEs – Clinical Examination

- Test of performance of clinical skills: not a test of knowledge
 - the candidates have to demonstrate their skills



Possible Range of Competencies Assessed by OSCE

1. Interpretation of patient's chart
2. Communications, Interpersonal skills
3. history-taking
4. physical examination
5. written records
6. diagnoses, treatment planning and documenting clinical findings
8. Interpretation of investigation tests
9. Patient education
10.

Varieties of OSCEs

 Patient-based  Written task  Clinical task

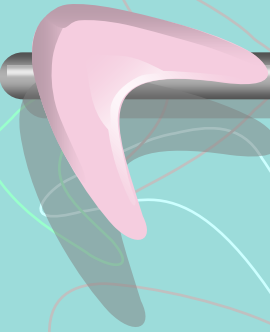
Traditional OSCE      

SP-based test      

Station couplets      

Integral consultations   

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Introduction to candidates This is a **ten (10) minute patient instruction station**.

Read the scenario carefully. (A clean placebo device is provided for your use)

Scenario Mandy is a 7-year-old girl with mild persistent asthma diagnosed one year ago. She has just been admitted to hospital following an exacerbation of asthma. She is on salbutamol and beclomethasone Meter Dose Inhaler (MDI with spacer device).

Mandy's mother requests you to review the MDI technique with her, as she is concerned that she could have been doing it "wrong." On questioning, you realize that Mandy's mother has stopped using the beclomethasone inhaler because it is not helping to relieve her symptoms.

Mandy's mother has asked for a doctor to show her how to use the inhaler so that she can help Mandy use it.

Task: You, as her doctor today, are expected to check on the technique of inhaler use and give appropriate instructions to the mother. Enter the room and speak to her.

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Key features of OSCE

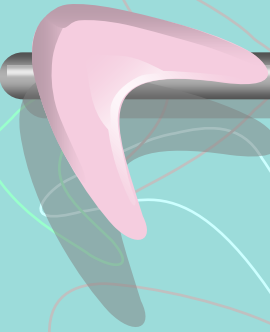
- The candidate is expected to communicate clear and precise instructions on:
 - ✓ The correct technique of using the MDI with a spacer device
 - ✓ The role of beclomethasone MDI as a preventer of asthma and the importance of using it regularly

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Note

- One nurse will **role-play** as Mandy's mother
- The **examiner is to assess** the candidate's performance during the **consultation**
- The candidate will **not score better than "borderline fail"** in overall performance if **he/she is unable to teach the right technique**

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Advantages

- An **effective alternative** to unstructured short cases
- Allows wider **sampling and standardization** of cases
- **Greater reliability** of marking

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Limitations

- **Validity** is compromised if a complex skill, in the pursuit of higher **reliability**, is fragmented into **multiple minor tasks**
- Assessment of **communication**, and especially **attitudes**, is **difficult**, as these skills are **case-specific** and have **poor generalizability**. For example, to assess **empathy** reliably, as many as **37 cases** might be required
- OSCE relies on **task-specific checklists** which **assumes** that physician-patient interactions can be described as a list of actions
- **Labor intensive and expensive**

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Tips on Writing OSCE

- Develop a **case blueprint** for entire examination
- Focus on the **important physician's tasks**
- Spend **more energy and efforts in increasing the number of stations** and less on standardizing the checklist or marking scheme
- If examiner availability is an issue, consider using the **standardized patient as a marker**
- Do not separate artificially the content and the process; for most tasks these two are inseparable

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Recommended practice

An OSCE should have at least 14-18 stations

Use of **global** rating scale and examiner training

Use of **patients as raters**

Effect and rationale

Required to achieve acceptable level of reliability

Global rating scale is as good as more labor intensive check-list based scoring

Reduces need for expert examiners

Produces equivalent results