

Intercollegiate Committee for Basic Surgical Examinations (ICBSE)

Procedures for Examiners Switching Stations during Part B (OSCE) Exam

Introduction

This process defines the protocol for managing examiner arrangements in the event that examiners examine in different MRCS Part B OSCE stations in different circuits being administered on the same day.

Principles

The protocol should ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged as a result of a change of examiner and that all steps are taken to ensure a consistent examining approach between examiners. To achieve this, the following principles underpin the protocol:

- examiners are afforded sufficient time to familiarise themselves with OSCE station requirements before examining;
- examiners are afforded sufficient time to discuss the approach to examining the OSCE station with others involved, eg actor, partner examiner, before examining;
- examiners have a sufficient break between circuits.

Protocol

One protocol which meets the requirements of the above principles is provided below.

1. Examiners are provided with both the scenarios they are to examine on that day and permitted at least 30 minutes to familiarise themselves with the two stations and to discuss the first station with any partner examiner and/or patient/actor.
2. At the end of the first circuit, examiners will have a break of no less than 30 minutes.
3. Examiners are provided with an additional 10 minutes, or longer, to re-familiarise themselves with the new scenario, discuss the station with the previous examiner, any partner examiner and/or patient/actor.
4. Where possible, scenarios should be directly switched between two examiners to allow for a straight forward handover process. The examiners should brief each other on any areas of contention that arose during the first session and confirm how any issues were dealt with, to facilitate a consistent approach. If actors are part of the scenario they should be present during the Examiners discussion.