

[Click Here](#)





The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) is a widely used assessment method in medical school since the 1970s. It evaluates a student's professional performance in practice, providing a safe environment for both students and patients. The OSCE consists of simulated clinical scenarios where students respond as qualified healthcare professionals. While some students find OSCEs stressful due to direct scrutiny by staff and simulated patients, those who are well-prepared tend to perform better. This article aims to explain what OSCEs involve and provide guidance on how to prepare for them. Pharmacy OSCEs is a comprehensive guide covering key competencies that will be tested. The topics assessed in pharmacy OSCEs include responding to symptoms, history taking, prescribing, counselling patients, record keeping, problem-solving, and dosage calculations. To prepare for the exam, students should focus on revising areas such as patient assessment, interpreting laboratory data, and simple dosage calculations. Many reference sources are available online or through universities, including Martindale, Stockley's Drug Interactions, British National Formulary, and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence clinical knowledge summaries. ### Having a solid understanding of medications is crucial for success in medical exams. Familiarize yourself with the Electronic Medicines Compendium and patient information leaflets to save time during the exam. Also, brush up on your knowledge of the BNF (British National Formulary) by studying its format and layout. Before taking the OSCE, make sure you understand key concepts such as drug abbreviations, dosages, and warnings. The appendices in the BNF can serve as a valuable resource for information on specific medications. When using the index to choose the right medication, consider the patient's condition and potential indications. Be cautious when dealing with difficult-to-use medications that may require therapeutic monitoring or have narrow therapeutic indices. To prepare for these challenging medications, create revision aids such as Figure 1: Revision aid for methotrexate. Practice explaining pharmacy scenarios to friends or family to hone your communication skills. This can also be done by practicing a patient information leaflet with someone who has never used an inhaler before. In plenty of time, arrive at the centre and be prepared to present yourself. The rules may vary, but you should bring everything required. Your centre will inform you about this. Dress professionally, as many students feel more confident with a professional appearance. Read all instructions carefully before entering the station. Think thoroughly before answering questions. You don't have to look up information that is in your head already. Look at which reference source is most suitable when needed. Each scenario is new, so think about what you learned from previous stations and do not be distracted by them. The OSCE tests verbal communication skills. Introduce yourself, maintain eye contact with the patient or healthcare professional, and finish each station by asking if they understand. Mnemonics are essential for many questions. Be calm during the exam and listen carefully to the information shared by the patient or healthcare professional before looking at resources. It can be intimidating, but practice beforehand is crucial. Prepare well in advance and practice your conversation skills with others who may not know much about medicine. In order to utilize the full functionality of WorldCat, it is essential that you have JavaScript enabled within your web browser settings.