

Coming Soon:

We will be holding some interactive webinars in Nov so you can ask any assessment-related question you may have. You can also send us your questions in advance (see email addresses below)

Full details to follow...

If you have any assessment-related queries at any point and can't find the answers on 1MedInfo then do not hesitate to get in touch with the assessment team:

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Y4 Must Read

Oct 2018



Welcome to the latest edition of Y4MR... this month we focus on assessment and think ahead to OSCEs

In this Y4MR we have included news on some changes to the exam processes – find these on page 2. On page 3 we have collated our top tips to help you prepare for the Winter OSCE.

The best place to go for more information is our 1MedInfo pages on Year 4 assessment:

<https://www.onemedinfo.manchester.ac.uk/blog/topics/assessment-in-year-4/>

There is a range of resources available online to view relating to both your Progress Test (and additional 50 questions in May) and the OSCEs. Please do spend time reading the Y4 OSCE blueprint information which details the station types that will be included in your OSCE with helpful guidance on common mistakes that students have made for each. We also have more 'top tips', a detailed FAQ and information relating to the process of the OSCE overall.

MBChB Assessment Update



OSCE Update

OSCE News! More Prep Time!

We've listened to feedback from students and examiners asking for more time between stations to prepare for the task to come and to allow examiners more time to provide more detailed feedback on your performance to help you develop. As a result, we are pleased to announce that as from this academic year, we are increasing the time between stations from 60 seconds to 90 seconds. This will take effect from the Winter OSCEs this year (December 2018) and will also be in place for all OSCEs in years 3-5.

Update to candidate adherence with infection control measures within the OSCE

You will be aware from previous OSCE briefings that examiners are instructed to dock 1 mark from your global score if candidates fail to use alcohol before and after patient contact (which applies to both consultation and examination stations). However based on recent feedback from both students and examiners we have updated the guidance to be more encompassing of infection control measures more widely. The updated examiner instructions now state:

"This is an interactive station and so the candidate should adhere to standard infection control practices (i.e clean hands with alcohol upon entering AND before leaving a station that involves a (simulated) patient, even if no physical contact made with patient / cleans (if used) stethoscope / is bare below elbows etc). If the candidate is in breach of any/multiple infection control measures in this station then please dock one point from their global mark and remind them of the importance of this in their feedback."

Mitigating Circumstances

We have made some changes to the process for letting us know about mitigating circumstances relating to assessment this year. Full details can be found in the [MBChB Programme Handbook](#). Two key updates have been made. The first relates to increasing importance placed on adhering to timescales for submitting evidence in order for mitigating circumstances to be considered. The second change is that all student submissions for mitigating circumstances will now be reviewed to determine if particular students may benefit from additional support (previously it was only submissions from students who had failed an assessment that were reviewed). Full details of these processes are in the MB ChB Mitigating Circumstances Regulations policy in the handbook.

Raising a Concern relating to assessment

Again in response to student feedback, we have updated our process of raising a concern. Although we anticipate this will be used infrequently, we are keen that students have a clear and transparent process by which they can raise any problems that arose. Full details once more are in the Programme Handbook or by [clicking here](#).

Clinical Examinations

A guide for Year 4 medical students at the University of Manchester



iBook: Hopefully most of you are finding the Y4 iBook useful. Our block (specialty) leads wrote this with Nick Smith in response to feedback from the previous year. It summarises examination routines as recommended by our specialists, and is the standard that we will expect (and benchmark to) in your OSCE.

Get it via our iTunesU site:

<https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/enroll/KZH-LHV-J35>

Y4 Top Tips for OSCE preparation

Drs Matt Jones
and Pippa Watson

Placements are important OSCE preparation:

The best way to prepare for these exams is getting involved in the clinical environment - assessing patients, interpreting results and explaining things to patients. Remember the standard we are looking for is that of a safe FY1 doctor. You may not get the chance to do some of the specialities again prior to starting work so make the most of the opportunities and get involved.

Skills Check:

Are you on track with your UPSAs, prescribing and medicine safety and core skills? Practising these will help with OSCE preparation and is something that you must achieve, so grab any opportunities you are given.

Preparation steps from our students:

1. Use the iBook as a guide to your examination routines.
2. Start revision early! Team up with a partner, or form a study group.
3. Practice a lot. For examinations keep going until you can do them smoothly. Make sure to practice on patients as well as each other. It's really important that you can detect important signs, not just go through the motions.
4. Remember that the OSCE isn't just about history and examination- check out the blueprint and practice for other stations such as explaining procedures and results to patients, prescribing, and interpreting investigations.
5. For stations involving history taking and examination remember to practice the whole station, including summarising at the end. Take turns to ask each other questions e.g. what is your differential diagnosis and why? What would you do next?
6. Take every opportunity you can to get feedback- from your study partners and anyone else who watches you interact with patients. Be critical (but kind) when feeding back to others. "That was great" doesn't help someone to improve...
7. Be careful not to work too late the night before your exams. Last minute cramming is unlikely to help and being clear headed is important to allow you to think clearly and show what you can do.

Update from the Wythenshawe team



Dr Miles Riddle

Hello and Welcome to Block 3.

I think you have all settled in to the rhythm of things by now. The general feedback from your placement tutors has again been really positive. Thank you very much for your feedback on placements across the South Sector. It's great to see that on the whole people are having a positive experience. We are aware that there have been one or two challenges in some placements and we are working hard to resolve these. Such challenges are inevitable in a massive organisation like the NHS and I have been impressed by the maturity shown in how people have fed back in a constructive way. The ability to see a problem *from all sides* is such an important one as an NHS doctor.

I recently met up with your Year 4 Representative, Safiya Saeed, who I think is brilliant and you are lucky to have her! Safiya had some great ideas about how she might best represent you, in particular around feedback and getting your voice heard. She is very happy to hear from you (and for you to remain anonymous if you wanted), so that any concerns can reach myself and my colleagues in the undergraduate office and we can try to help. Safiya will shortly be sending around a Survey Monkey Questionnaire asking for your feedback and we would really appreciate if you could find the time to respond to this.

This 'Must Read' runs on the assessment vibe. I think the information given is essential and of upmost use in preparing for your upcoming OSCE & Progress Test. Please take the advice provided and share it. Evidence shows that learning together as adults is very powerful so do support each other in this and don't get isolated.

The run up to OSCE's is really stressful and I completely understand this. Remember, we are *on your side* and want you all to do well. If you feel things are getting on top of you or want to discuss your worries about assessments, please do make an appointment either to see me or a member of the SWAPS team.

Beyond your studies and exams try to remember that there is more to life than just this! Play hockey, cook a soufflé, dance till your legs go numb, meet friends, join a yoga class, jump out of a plane (with a parachute) – whatever floats your boat!

Some of you may be interested to know that Keith Munnings, a Buddhist Chaplain at Wythenshawe Hospital, is running meditation sessions at 5pm on a Thursday in the ERC. You would be welcome to drop in.