

Using Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs) To Streamline Dermatoethics Education

A New Approach

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ACGME MILESTONES

PROF1. Practices medicine ethically

- Practice gap in dermatology residency training
- Few accredited residencies with formal ethics curriculum
 - Brown University
 - University of Connecticut

The Ethics Objective Structured Clinical Examination

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RESEARCH REPORT

Performance-based Assessment of Clinical Ethics Using an Objective Structured Clinical Examination

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ASA PAPER

Professionalism Training For Surgical Residents *Documenting the Advantages of a Professionalism Curriculum*

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PROPOSED OSCE MODALITIES

Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCE)

- Live, standardized patient encounter
 - Two to Three 15-minute stations
 - Could be videotaped
 - Based on cases from individual departments
- Online simulation programs
- Oral examination
 - Verbal case provided, step-by-step prompted questions on how to proceed through the encounter

ETHICS OSCE: EXAMPLE

- Case
 - You receive an email from an established 17-year old female patient who is on **her second round of isotretinoin** for treatment of severe acne.
 - **She forgot to get her monthly labs and wants you to fill her prescription anyways.** She is eager to complete treatment before prom season.
 - She **says that she's been using birth control pills and abstinence** as her 2 forms of contraception.
 - At her last in-office visit, she mentioned that **she has a new boyfriend. Inquiries about sexual activity were not asked because her mother was also present.**
 - She only has **3 more months of treatment left. What is your response?**
 - *Prompt 1: Patient sends back an angry response and demands prescription to be filled.*

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

- Possible **Checklist** Items
 - Clarifies** exact patient request
 - Asks patient about contraception adherence**
 - Educates patient** on risks surrounding request
 - Informs patient of ethical conflict**
 - Counsels patient** on proper course of action (iPledge)
 - Acknowledges patient's frustration**
 - Maintains a **calm, professional tone** in email/phone encounter
 - Offers up **alternative options** for upcoming visit
- **Debrief** encounter with short resident assessment of perceived performance

EVALUATION

- Objective data
 - Number of clinical competencies completed on OSCE checklist
 - Internal consistency reliability of OSCE domains can be assessed
 - Analysis of variance
 - Results of post-encounter resident assessment
 - Track resident perception of ethical competency
 - Standardized patient assessment scores of resident (if applicable)

SUBJECTIVE FOLLOW-UP

- Focused Group Discussion
 - Program-wide debrief meeting on OSCE experiences
 - Troubleshooting on how to improve practices and flow of the exercise
 - Interactive discussion to identify ethical conflicts and appropriate clinical responses
- Ethical Grand Rounds

NEXT STEPS

- Expert consensus (dermatology faculty)
- Feedback from individual programs on areas of interest/concern. Elicit resident experiences with ethical conflict.
- Promote regular ethics seminars for open discussion with residents and faculty
- Use subjective data to compile a bank of Dermatoethics OSCEs scenarios
 - Test OSCEs on volunteer faculty for face/content validity
 - Begin pilot study on incoming residency class before and after ethics curriculum implementation

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