

OSCE IN ACTION:

EVALUATING CLINICAL SKILLS IN PHC670 AND PHC671

By Mdm Nur Syazwani Taridi, Mdm Nurul Ashikin Jamludin, Dr. Farhana Fakhira Ismail, Mr. Mohd Rahimi Muda, Ms. Nik Aisyah Najwa Nik Mustaffa Shapri, Mdm Nor Elyzatul Akma Hamdan, Mr. Mohamad Suhaidi Sha'ari

OSCE Design and Assessment Work

On 6th and 7th January 2026, the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) of PHC671 Applied Therapeutics in Infectious Diseases and Malignancies and PHC670 Community Pharmacy courses under the Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Pharmacy Department was successfully conducted. The primary objective of the OSCE was to assess students' competency in delivering patient-centered pharmaceutical care using the Pharmacists' Patient Care Process (PPCP) framework. It tested not only knowledge but also essential skills such as clinical reasoning, decision-making, communication, and professionalism, which are critical for safe and effective practice in primary and specialised healthcare settings.

The OSCE comprised several stations designed to reflect common and real-life pharmacy practices. These included patient demographic and clinical history taking, prescription and/or medication review, identification of drug-related problems, development of pharmaceutical care plans, and professional documentation. A standardised timing system was used to ensure consistency across all students. To maintain examination integrity, students were placed in a pre-quarantine room before the OSCE commenced and directed to the post-quarantine room upon completion. This structured process prevented information sharing between students and supported an objective assessment of competency.

Quality Assurance and Simulation

The OSCE stations were evaluated by trained examiners using standardised rubrics aligned with the course learning outcomes. The presence of simulated patients who were trained to portray standardised clinical scenarios added a layer of realism and further enhanced the authenticity of the assessment. Their role was essential in creating realistic patient interactions, allowing students to demonstrate empathy, effective communication, and sound clinical judgment.

The successful implementation of this OSCE was made possible through the dedication of faculty members, including Mr. Mohd Rahimi Muda and Dr. Farhana Fakhira Ismail, as the resource persons for the PHC671 and PHC670 courses, as well as the OSCE committees, examiners, and simulated patients. Their meticulous planning, attention to detail, and commitment to student learning ensured a smooth and fair assessment process, providing students with a supportive environment to demonstrate their skills.

Professionalism and Evidence-Based Practice in OSCE

Through this OSCE, students had the opportunity to apply PPCP principles in clinical decision-making and to communicate effectively with patients in a simulated yet authentic setting. The experience reinforces the importance of professionalism, patient-centered care, and evidence-based practice. The successful completion of PHC670 and PHC671 OSCE highlights the faculty’s ongoing commitment to experiential learning and the development of competent, practice-ready pharmacy graduates. We congratulate all students for their preparation, focus, and outstanding performance in this important assessment.

