

# AN OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED CLINICAL EXAMINATION (OSCE):

Strengthening Confidence and Clinical Skills



An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) for third-year and fourth-year pharmacy students was held on July 5th and 11th, 2023, respectively. OSCE is an approach to assess students' clinical competency in a planned and structured manner. OSCE emphasizes the communication and clinical intervention skills for pharmacists in training. It is essentially an organizational framework consisting of several stations, in which students will be rotated, and are assessed on specific tasks.

This OSCE consists of a circuit of 4-5 stations, with each station allocated 5-6 minutes of assessment time. The tasks in each station were designed using the pharmacist-patient care process (PPCP). The first stage is to gather medical or medication history from simulated patients. Following that, students are expected to identify drug-related problems (DRPs) based on the clinical evaluation conducted at an earlier stage. Students are then expected to address and resolve the DRPs by developing an individual therapeutic plan. After that, students need to implement the care plan by educating and counseling the patients. Finally, they must suggest a monitoring and follow-up plan to assess the effectiveness of the suggested care plan. In OSCE, the students were examined on a one-to-one basis by examiners. A simulated patient is a person who is given a role and scripted instructions to portray a patient. Students were rotated through the stations, completing all stations in their respective circuits.

Through an OSCE, these future pharmacists were given the opportunity to demonstrate competency in communication, history taking, identifying pharmaceutical care issues (PCI), and developing plans to address the PCIs. OSCEs are extremely beneficial in pharmacy education because they allow students to practice and exhibit clinical skills in a standardized medical scenario. Students agreed that participating in the OSCE encouraged them to evaluate themselves. They noted that it allowed them to discover their performance in simulated situations and offered valuable insights on their strengths and weaknesses. OSCEs facilitate the assessment of psychomotor skills, knowledge, and attitudes. The objectives of OSCE have been successfully achieved during this current activity. Furthermore, it is also hoped that the experience gained from the OSCE will increase students' confidence in their clinical skills and prepare them mentally and intellectually for real clinical practice.

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