



Assessing Skills

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Why do it?

- Knowledge assessment doesn't "work"
- Need to encourage application
- Need to document ability



Cases

- Active Learning
 - Allows application and promotes transfer
 - Intrigues with real world problems
- Other:
 - Encourages application across subjects
 - Fosters critical analysis
 - Etc.



Case Writing

- Write learning objectives
 - For case writer
 - For participant
- Determine type of response
 - Structured case analysis
 - Less structured
- Will the case evolve?

Examples: Structured Case & Key,
Grading Chart



Case Writing (continued)

- Feedback options:
 - Discuss
 - Author's response
 - Provides feedback
 - Cross references to learning materials
 - Self scored
 - Grading
 - instructor (or multiple instructors)
 - teaching assistants/instructional support



Assignments

- Learners: Apply
- Instructors: More accurate measure, see differences between students
- Also:
 - Skills and some knowledge assessment
 - Taught skills, plus writing, organization, etc.
 - Individualize (Increased motivation/satisfaction)
 - Responsive to some learning styles



Assignments

- State objectives
- Assess the attainment of objectives
- Provide feedback
 - Consider sample responses
 - Consider grading chart with standard and individualized deductions



Observation & Checklists

- Assessing learning (mock environment)
- Raters
 - Volunteers
 - Simulated patient
 - Peer
 - Instructor
- Live or recorded
- See example checklist

[Example: Immunization Delivery Checklist](#)



Observation Example

- General practitioners
- CPR pre and post instruction
- Checklist and mechanical scores
- One finding:
 - Checklist and mechanical scores helpful

Jansen JJ, Berden HJ. Et. al. Evaluation of cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills of general practitioners using different scoring methods. *Resuscitation*. 1997; 34(1): 35-41.



Standardized Patients

- Trained on condition, patient case, etc.
- Can also assess performance
- Sources:
 - Students and teaching assistants
 - Volunteers and seniors groups
 - Actors
 - Local medical school



Standardized Patient Example

- Physical assessment
- Evaluation of drug therapy
- Demonstrate, practice and evaluate

Monaghan MS, Jones RM. Et. al. Using standardized patients to teach physical assessment skills to pharmacists. *Amer J Pharm Educ* 1997; 61(3): 226-71.



OSCEs

- Stations
- Standardized patients
- Observation or videotaping



OSCE Example

- Family physicians
- Problem based learning osteoporosis workshop
- Pre and post OSCEs

Davis P, Kvern B, Donen N, Andrews E, Nixon O. Evaluation of a problem-based learning workshop using pre and post test objectives structured clinical examinations and standardized patients. J Cont Educ H Prof 2000; 20(3): 164-70.



Summary

- Skill assessments can also assess knowledge acquisition/utilization
- Options range from low to high complexity/time/cost