

OSCE's -Evolution of the Assessment of Clinical Skills in the United States

Karen Szauter, MD
The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston TX USA

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) are a common method of assessment in North American medical schools, and have been used by many other health care disciplines. These examinations include multiple short stations or encounters wherein the learner is asked to demonstrate skill in a specific task. OSCEs often include encounters with standardized patients, people who have been trained to portray a person with a health related problem or concern. Over time, the traditional OSCE has evolved into assessments using multiple complex encounters and are used widely for the evaluation of clinical skills.

This presentation will cover the history of OSCE development and the application of this teaching and assessment methodology in healthcare training. The use of OSCEs for both formative and summative assessment in the will be presented, and will include a discussion of the Clinical Skills Assessment used for licensure in the USA. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of exciting opportunities for future OSCE-type assessments, incorporating both standardized patients and simulators.