

# Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise

## *A formative assessment tool*

### Purpose

A Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise (mini-CEX) encounter evaluates the trainee in real life settings and assesses aspects of clinical performance.

A mini-CEX is designed to:

- guide the trainee's learning through structured feedback
- help improve communication, history taking, physical examination and professional practice
- provide the trainee with an opportunity to be observed during interactions with patients and identify strategies to improve their practice
- be a teaching opportunity enabling the assessor to share their professional knowledge and experience.

### Overview

A mini-CEX encounter involves a trainee being observed in their workplace consulting with a patient. The trainee is given feedback across a range of areas relating to professional qualities and clinical competence from an assessor immediately after the observation.

### Consultations to be observed

Consultations for observation are chosen by the assessor, with the trainee to complete encounters on a range of cases. Each encounter should focus on specific aspects of the consultation and represent a different clinical problem.

The trainee is responsible for ensuring that adequate encounters are completed.

### Areas for assessment

- |                                |                           |                                |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Medical interviewing skills | 3. Professional qualities | 5. Clinical judgement          |
| 2. Physical examination skills | 4. Counselling skills     | 6. Organisation and efficiency |

### Trainee responsibilities

- Arrange a mini-CEX encounter with an assessor.
- Provide the assessor with a copy of the standardised RACP mini-CEX rating form.
- Complete tasks after the encounter, including the entry of data into the online mini-CEX tool.
- Submit a copy of the completed form to the assessor, automated through the online tool.

### Assessor responsibilities

- Choose an appropriate consultation for the encounter.
- Use the RACP mini-CEX rating form to rate the trainee.
- Provide constructive feedback and discuss improvement strategies. If a trainee receives a rating which is unsatisfactory, the assessor must complete the 'Suggestions for development' section. The form cannot be submitted if this section is left blank.
- Provide an overall judgment on how the trainee handled the consultation.

## mini-CEX Process



### Preparation for a mini-CEX encounter

- The trainee is responsible for initiating each mini-CEX encounter.
- Any Fellow of the College can act as an assessor.
- The assessor chooses an appropriate consultation for the encounter. The trainee confirms that they are willing to conduct a mini-CEX on the chosen consultation.
- Each encounter should represent a different clinical problem addressed in the relevant subspecialty Advanced Training Curriculum.
- The trainee and the assessor need to have a clear understanding of the purpose, process and outcomes they aim to achieve during the mini-CEX encounter.

### During a mini-CEX encounter

- The mini-CEX encounter takes approximately 30 minutes, including a 10 - 15 minute feedback session.
- The trainee is observed during their consultation with the patient.
- The assessor makes notes and rates the trainee's performance on the RACP mini-CEX rating form throughout the consultation. The assessor provides an overall 'competence' rating based on the outcome of the consultation.
- The observation is immediately followed by feedback from the assessor. Feedback covers what the trainee did well and any areas for improvement. If any significant areas for development are identified during the consultation, the assessor and trainee should devise a remediation plan. If a trainee receives a rating which is unsatisfactory, the assessor must complete the 'Suggestions for development' section. The form cannot be submitted if this section is left blank.
- The RACP mini-CEX rating form is signed by the trainee and assessor.

### After a mini-CEX encounter

- The trainee enters the data from the completed RACP mini-CEX rating form into the Advanced Training Portal as part of their record of training.
- The trainee submits a copy of the completed form to the assessor, automated through the online tool.
- The nominated supervisor(s) for the training rotation can view the completed form online through the Advanced Training Portal.
- The trainee must take a copy of the completed RACP mini-CEX rating form(s) to meetings with their nominated supervisor(s).

#### More information

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