

# Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise

*A formative assessment tool*



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

## Purpose

A Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise (mini-CEX) encounter evaluates trainees in real life settings and assesses aspects of clinical performance, including medical interviewing, physical examination, professional qualities, counselling skills, clinical judgement, organisation and efficiency. A mini-CEX is designed to:

- guide trainees' learning through structured feedback
- help improve communication, history taking, physical examination and professional practice
- provide trainees 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 trainees being observed in their workplace consulting with a patient. Trainees are given feedback across a range of areas relating to professional qualities and clinical competence from an assessor immediately after the observation.

A mini-CEX encounter takes approximately 30 minutes, including a 10 - 15 minute feedback session.

## Consultations to be observed

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

Trainees are 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 on the Basic Training Portal and emailing the completed rating form to the assessor.

## Assessor responsibilities

- Choose an appropriate consultation for the encounter.
- Use the RACP mini-CEX rating form to rate trainees.
- 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 trainees handle the consultation.

## mini-CEX Process



### Preparation for a mini-CEX encounter

- Trainees are responsible for initiating each mini-CEX encounter, advising the assessor of the areas outlined in their respective Basic Training Curriculum that require assessment.
- An assessor can be any Fellow of the RACP or another College or an Advanced Trainee.
- Assessors choose an appropriate consultation for the encounter. Trainees confirm 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 Basic Training Curriculum.
- Trainees and assessors 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.
- Trainees are observed during their consultation with the patient.
- Assessors make notes and rate trainees' 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 trainees did well and any areas for improvement. If any significant areas of weakness are identified during the consultation, assessors and trainees 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 trainees and assessors.

### After a mini-CEX encounter

- Trainees enter the data from the completed RACP mini-CEX rating form into the Basic Training Portal as part of their record of training.
- Trainees send a PDF version of the completed RACP mini-CEX rating form to their assessor via email. This process is automated within the Basic Training Portal.
- The nominated supervisor(s) for the rotation can view the completed form online through the Basic Training Portal.
- Trainees must take a copy of the completed RACP mini-CEX rating form(s) to their quarterly meetings with their nominated supervisor(s).

#### More information

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