Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM) 2022 Fellowship Clinical Examination

Examiner Feedback

The 2022 AFRM Fellowship Clinical Examination was conducted at multiple sites on Sunday, 8 May 2022, including:

NSW: Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney
VIC: St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
QLD: Gold Coast University Hospital, Gold Coast

This document provides generic feedback from the examiners about candidate performance in the 2022 AFRM Fellowship Clinical Examination. Candidates were examined across 10 clinical stations, including one written station.

Stations 1 and 13: Rheumatoid arthritis

Learning Objective 1.1.1	Describe the potentially disabling consequences of disease, disorders and injury
Learning Objective 1.1.2	Determine the nature and extent of disability and activity limitation or participation restriction
Learning Objective 1.2.1	Plan and implement a realistic and appropriate rehabilitation program that is problem oriented, goal-driven, time-limited and directly addresses the needs and expectation of the patient and family
Learning Objective 1.2.2	Describe, use and coordinate assessments and therapies of the interdisciplinary team
Learning Objective 2.8.3	Formulate a rehabilitation management plan specifying appropriate modalities of assessment and treatment
Learning Objective 2.10.2	Prescribe rehabilitation treatment for occupational injury

Candidates performed well in the following areas:

- General understanding of:
  - the benefits of hydrotherapy
  - sleep hygiene recommendations
- Identification of adaptive devices for dressing

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:

- Description of a graded shoulder rehabilitation program after elective shoulder replacement surgery
- General contraindications to hydrotherapy

Other comments

Candidates need to address the question being asked.

Stations 2 and 14: Pre-amputation counselling

Learning Objective 1.2.1	Plan and implement a realistic and appropriate rehabilitation program that is problem-oriented, goal-driven, time-limited and directly addresses the needs and expectation of the patient and family
Learning Objective 1.2.2	Describe, use and coordinate assessments and therapies of the interdisciplinary team
Learning Objective 2.5.2	Complete a comprehensive patient assessment that identifies disability resulting from illness and/or injury in old age and evaluate the potential for rehabilitation
Learning Objective 2.5.3	Formulate a rehabilitation management plan in consultation with the patient, family and general practitioner

Candidates performed well in the following areas:
- Directed history taking from the role player / patient
- Knowledge of K-level classification

Candidates performed poorly in the following area:
- Practical considerations for progressing to prosthetic mobility on a farm

Other comments
- Candidates need to:
    - listen carefully to the information provided by the role player to avoid repetition
    - address the question being asked
    - give targeted and structured answers using layperson's terms
    - ensure they gain exposure to amputee rehabilitation in clinical settings.
- Responses to the question on prosthetic mobility on a farm often included information on post-operative care in a peri-operative setting.

Stations 3 and 15: Swallow

Learning Objective 1.1.1	Describe the potentially disabling consequences of disease, disorders and injury
Learning Objective 1.2.1	Plan and implement a realistic and appropriate rehabilitation programme that is problem-oriented, goal-driven, time-limited and directly addresses the needs and expectations of the patient and family
Learning Objective 1.4.1	Promote preventative strategies with regard to diseases and injuries that may cause significant disability
Learning Objective 2.5.1	Outline the basis and management of illness and injury in older people
Learning Objective 2.9.4	Assess and manage the rehabilitation of a patient with cerebrovascular disease

Candidates performed well in the following area:

- Knowledge of the names of tests and manoeuvres that a speech therapist would use

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:

- Time management
- Knowledge of the anatomy
- Understanding of recommendations to nursing staff to ensure patient safety in patients with dysphagia
- Important observations from the video – most candidates did not see the nasal gastric tube in the video

Other comments

- Many candidates gave more than the required numbers of answers.
- Some candidates need to improve the legibility of their handwriting.
- Candidates are encouraged to observe speech therapists assessing patients with swallowing difficulties and discuss management with them.

Stations 4 and 16: Administration and leadership

Learning Objective 1.2.2	Relate appropriate management principles to effective staff and team management
Learning Objective 1.3.4	Design, implement and monitor service delivery
Learning Objective 1.7.1	Monitor the quality of processes and outcomes of rehabilitation and undertake quality activities to improve service delivery and clinical management
Learning Objective 2.3.1	Recognise, report on and manage adverse events and errors
Learning Objective 2.3.2	Identify, establish, implement and/or comply with relevant risk-management/minimisation procedures
Learning Objective 2.1.1	Use evidence to inform quality improvement
Learning Objective 7.2.1	Demonstrate ability to provide leadership and effectively manage others

Candidates performed well in the following areas:
- Understanding of how to provide support to junior doctors in difficulty, including what resources are available
- Identification of the trend in the data table provided

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:
- Explanations for the trend seen in the data table
- Suggested approach(es) to improve the appropriate use of emergency response calls

Other comments

Candidates need to listen to the question being asked and not provide information that does not specifically answer the question.

Stations 5 and 17: Spinal cord injury

Learning Objective 1.1.1	Describe the potentially disabling consequences of disease, disorders and injury
Learning Objective 1.4.1	Promote preventative strategies with regard to diseases and injuries that may cause significant disability
Learning Objective 2.5.1	Outline the basis and management of illness and injury in older people
Learning Objective 2.11.3	Formulate a management plan that specifies necessary medical, physical, and functional rehabilitation goals and treatment in inpatient, outpatient and community settings

Candidates performed well in the following areas:

- History taking – however, approaches were often unstructured
- Identification of the syrinx on the MRI
- Being sensitive and supportive in communication with the role player / patient

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:

- Systematic history taking in the setting of functional decline in chronic SCI
- Identification of metal artefact on T2-weighted MRI
- Knowledge of the effects of ageing with chronic SCI and the associated preventative management
- Time management, despite prompts by examiners

Other comments

Candidates need to:
- ensure history taking is structured, based on the information provided in the stem
- practise interpretation of radiological imaging of the spine
- focus on time management in their preparation for the Fellowship Clinical Examination.

Stations 7 and 19: Geriatric rehabilitation

Learning Objective 1.2.1	Plan and implement a realistic and appropriate rehabilitation program that is problem-oriented, goal-driven, time-limited and directly addresses the needs and expectation of the patient and family
Learning Objective 1.2.2	Describe, use and coordinate assessments and therapies of the interdisciplinary team
Learning Objective 2.5.2	Complete a comprehensive patient assessment that identifies disability resulting from illness and/or injury in old age and evaluate the potential for rehabilitation
Learning Objective 2.5.3	Formulate a rehabilitation management plan in consultation with the patient, family and general practitioner

Candidates performed well in the following areas:

- Communication with the role player / relative
- Explanation of cognitive domains affected by dementia and the functional impact
- Generic knowledge of the role of occupational therapists in the community

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:

- Knowledge of the role of an occupational therapist specific to this case
- Understanding of:
    - the role of imaging in the diagnosis of dementia
    - behavioural management strategies for people with dementia

Other comments

- Candidates need to improve their knowledge of the:
    - benefits of an early diagnosis of dementia
    - pharmacological management of dementia.

- Answers that are general and do not specifically address the question do not attract marks.

Stations 8 and 20: Diabetes

Learning Objective 1.2.1	Plan and implement a realistic and appropriate rehabilitation program that is problem-oriented, goal-driven, time-limited and directly addresses the needs and expectation of the patient and family – *Describe the use of prosthetics, orthotics and adaptive equipment in the management of impairment and disability*
Learning Objective 2.5.1	Outline the basis and management of illness and injury in older people
Learning Objective 2.5.3	Formulate a rehabilitation management plan in consultation with the patient, family and general practitioner

Candidates performed well in the following areas:

- Communication with the role player / patient
- Basic understanding of diabetes

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:

- Limited knowledge of high-risk foot / ulcer management and management of postural hypotension and home safety issues
- Use of trade names to describe orthotic shoe

Other comments

- Candidates need to:
    - read the stem carefully and address the questions being asked
    - provide specific, relevant and practical answers rather than generic answers.

- Candidates are encouraged to spend time with orthotist and nursing colleagues to gain a better understanding of assistive devices / techniques available for people with complications of chronic disease (i.e. diabetes).

Stations 9 and 21: Lumbar spine

Learning Objective 1.1.1	Describe the potentially disabling consequences of disease, disorders and injury
Learning Objective 1.2.1	Plan and implement a realistic and appropriate rehabilitation program that is problem-oriented, goal-driven, time-limited and directly addresses the needs and expectation of the patient and family
Learning Objective 2.2.1	Recall basic knowledge of chronic pain
Learning Objective 2.2.2	Complete a comprehensive assessment of the patient presenting with chronic pain and determine the potential for rehabilitation
Learning Objective 2.8.1	Recall basic anatomy and physiology of the musculoskeletal system
Learning Objective 2.8.2	Complete a comprehensive assessment of a patient presenting with musculoskeletal disease or injury and evaluate the potential for rehabilitation
Learning Objective 2.8.3	Formulate a rehabilitation management plan specifying appropriate modalities of assessment and treatment

Candidates performed well in the following area:

- Good communication skills, including clear instructions, to role player / patient

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:

- Limited examination – candidates often missed general inspection, gait
- Knowledge of pharmacology
- Time management

Other comments

Candidates need to:
- listen to the task given and the questions being asked
- avoid medical jargon.

Stations 10 and 22: Multiple sclerosis

Learning Objective 1.1.1	Describe the potentially disabling consequences of disease, disorders and injury
Learning Objective 1.1.2	Determine the nature and extend of disability and activity limitation or participation restriction
Learning Objective 1.2.1	Plan and implement a realistic and appropriate rehabilitation program that is problem-oriented, goal-driven, time-limited and directly addresses the needs and expectation of the patient and family
Learning Objective 2.9.5	Assess and manage the rehabilitation of a patient with multiple sclerosis
Learning Objective 2.9.2	Complete a comprehensive assessment of a patient with neurological disease and evaluate the potential for rehabilitation

Candidates performed well in the following areas:
- Communication and interaction with role player / patient
- Understanding of urodynamics / bladder management

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:
- Explanation and interpretation of neuropsychological results
- Appreciation of the vocational aspects of neuropsychological issues

Other comments

Candidates need to:
- give specific answers and avoid generic responses
- not just repeat what is in the stem
- provide a structured answer that is easy for the patient to understand.

Stations 11 and 23: Neurological examination

Learning Objective 1.1.1	Describe the potentially disabling consequences of disease, disorders and injury
Learning Objective 1.1.2	Determine the nature and extend of disability and activity limitation or participation restriction
Learning Objective 1.2.2	Describe, use and coordinate assessments and therapies of the interdisciplinary team
Learning Objective 2.9.1	Recall basic knowledge of neurological disease
Learning Objective 2.9.2	Complete a comprehensive assessment of a patient with neurological disease and evaluate the potential for rehabilitation
Learning Objective 2.9.4	Assess and manage the rehabilitation of a patient with cerebrovascular disease

Candidates performed well in the following area:

- Gerstman's syndrome

Candidates performed poorly in the following areas:

- Reporting of CT findings
- Completion of all areas of the physical examination – general inspection and visual field examinations were limited
- Dressing apraxia management and rehabilitation strategies

Other comments

- Candidates need to perform the specific examination requested.