



Certifying Exam

Scoring Information

Introduction

Certifying Examination (CE) is designed to provide the certified physician a more valuable credential. The new CE assesses competencies that the specialty, healthcare systems, and the public have identified as essential to determining that a physician has demonstrated the capacity to practice in a safe, high-quality manner.

There are several cases that assess explicit skills (e.g., difficult conversations). The various [case types and references are described on ABEM's website](#). Because the skills that are being tested are often unique to the case type, the scoring criteria can also be unique to the case type.

The following scoring criteria show the types of parameters upon which candidates will be scored. ABEM will update the general scoring criteria as needed on the website.

General Scoring Criteria by Case Type

The following are the general criteria that will be used to evaluate candidate performance in each case type.

Clinical Cases

Clinical Decision Making

This clinical case is a structured discussion with an examiner where a candidate will describe the steps necessary to diagnose and treat a patient with an undifferentiated presentation.

The successful candidate will:

- identify the focused historical information a candidate would ask
- describe physical exam findings and their significance to the presentation
- develop an appropriate differential diagnosis
- order appropriate tests and interpret them accurately
- stabilize and treat the patient
- reassess the patient as care evolves and modify care as needed
- provide anticipatory guidance at time of disposition
- discuss clinical decision-making rationales
- demonstrate comprehension of pathophysiology

Prioritization

This clinical case is a structured discussion with an examiner. This case will assess the ability to prioritize multiple patients in the emergency department or prehospital setting and provide stabilizing care.

The successful candidate will:

- Determine acuity of patient(s)
- Provide appropriate and immediate stabilizing care
- Respond to changes in patient acuity and triage new cases as presented
- Use team resources appropriately

Communication and Procedures Cases

Difficult Conversations

This OSCE case involves disclosing sensitive, unwanted, or unexpected information to a patient or family member.

The successful candidate will:

- Establish rapport
- Determine baseline knowledge
- Disclose information
- Respond and react appropriately
- Provide closure

Managing Conflict

This OSCE case requires a candidate to negotiate patient care when there are differing opinions about what is best for the patient.

The successful candidate will:

- Establish rapport
- Understand the other person's position
- Explain their own positions
- Acknowledge divergent positions
- Identify shared interests
- Propose a path forward

Patient-Centered Communications

This OSCE case assesses a candidate's ability to effectively communicate with patients, families, or advocates to create a patient-centered encounter.

The successful candidate will:

- Establish rapport
- Acknowledge and respect the patient's perspectives
- Communicate information effectively to facilitate mutual understanding
- Share results of relevant diagnostic studies and other information
- Support shared decision-making to optimize outcomes.

Procedures

For this OSCE case, the candidate must demonstrate an understanding of procedures integral to the practice of emergency medicine as well as demonstrate the proper technique for performing the procedure.

The successful candidate will:

- Describe the indications, contraindications, and potential complications associated with performing the procedure
- Prepare for the procedure
- Demonstrate technical proficiency while performing the procedure
- Provide post-procedure management

Reassessment

This OSCE case requires a reassessment of the patient that integrates new information.

The successful candidate will:

- Obtain additional information after an unexpected change in a case that is in progress
- Analyze impact of new information
- Modify the patient's care as appropriate
- Reassess case
- Describe next steps in patient's care
- Articulate any change in treatment
- Consider system-based factors

Ultrasound

For this OSCE case, candidates must demonstrate the ability to acquire and interpret multiple ultrasound videos. Candidates will obtain ultrasound images on a standardized patient with the aid of the examiner who is able to change the settings of the machine to acquire the images. The candidate does not need to be familiar with the specific ultrasound machine being used, but should be able to troubleshoot a suboptimal image with respect to mode, gain, depth, etc.

The successful candidate will:

- Demonstrate proficiency at obtaining ultrasound images
- Interpret ultrasound videos accurately
- Provide patient-centered care

September 2024