

**Department of Medicine – Internal Medicine  
Postgraduate Program  
OSCE Examsmanship Tips**

Below you will find several tips as well as some good and bad video examples of how some of these components can be handled.

### General

Pay attention to the case scenarios (stems), they tell you what to do and orient you to the task

### Physical exam scenarios

Take a look at the following three mini video clips related to a physical exam scenario for a patient presenting with digital clubbing.

### Excellent exam scenario

Notice the following key pieces:

- Introduces self
- Repeats stem to ensure that there has been no misunderstanding of the task. Also translates it into something that the patient can understand to demonstrate patient centeredness.
- Makes a statement that segues into being able to talk out loud to examiner and to ensure patient comfort.
- Makes a brief outline of the conceptual approach to the station
- When demonstrating each component of the exam:
  - Tells patient what will be done
  - Describes the patients findings (or lack thereof) indicating pertinent negatives

### Not so good example

Beware of handling the physical exam scenario as if it were a theoretical exam. Your approach should not be what you would look for with each component of the exam. Be sure to describe your findings and/or lack of findings.

## Bad examples

These ones should speak for themselves

## Theoretical scenarios

Good Example  Bad Example 

Watch the good and bad examples. Notice the difference in data gathering technique.

- Take a moment to gather your thoughts (Writing down 4-5 headings relating to your approach to the scenario will help)
- In about 1-2 sentences, indicate to the examiner your overall approach to the scenario
- Don't try to get each piece of information one at a time. Rather, outline a series of questions you would like answers to and then ask for the information. Usually this can be handled by covering the information you would like to know about on history. Get that, outline a few more follow-up questions if necessary and then proceed to what you would look for on physical etc.

## Interpretation of an Investigation

Watch the good and bad example on this single video. Notice how in the good example the examinee repeats the stem, indicates the key concerns they are looking for and then demonstrates how they would look for these by commenting on the pertinent positive and negatives. In the bad example, the examinee uses a generic anatomical type approach trying to comment on absolutely everything whether it is relevant to the stem or not.

## Communication-based Scenarios

We have not made any examples of these. They should rather reflect how you would handle these in the real situation. You should not address the examiner at all during these components but rather just pay attention to the patient and the problem you are meant to be addressing.

Good Luck and enjoy the exam. It really should be a fun and educational even if it is also a bit stressful.

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p.s. if any of you are really struggling with this, stressing out or feel like you have other questions, don't hesitate to drop me a line. Alternatively, contact the DOM Education Office (519-663-3511). This is not meant to be the most stressful part of your year!