

Student Guidelines

The objective long case

As part of your assessment during **your 10 week Senior Medicine block only**, the ES a will arrange for you to complete an objective long case. This replaces the Mini-CEX and CBD in the second half of your 10-week attachment.

The long case is designed to test your skills of history and examination as well as your ability to integrate the findings, and to summarise this to the observer. You will also be asked to offer a problem list, differential diagnosis and describe a plan of investigation and management plan. The assessor will directly observe you taking a history and performing an examination on a patient. This will be divided into sections: details of the marking schedules are included. This will usually involve interviewing a patient on a medical ward. Scoring should reflect the performance that you would reasonably expect for a student at your stage of training. We ask the assessor to grade the complexity of the case and then to grade your performance in each section.

The long case should be undertaken as follows:

The examination will last no greater than 60 minutes; in this time you will see one long case. You will be given a brief introduction to the patient from the assessor and asked to 'perform a long case clerking (history and directed examination) on this patient'. You will then be observed for around 40 minutes while you carry out a history and directed examination. You will be told when you have 20 minutes left. You may wish to spend the last 5 minutes preparing your thoughts. The assessor will then spend 15 to 20 minutes on the following questions:

1. Please summarise this case and identify the main problems.
2. Please describe and justify your differential diagnosis, ranked from most to the least probable.
3. Please describe the investigations required to confirm you diagnosis.
4. Please describe the management and/or therapeutic measure you would take for this patient.

Debriefing and Feedback: This should take about 5–10 minutes. It should be conducted in a suitable, quiet environment immediately after the assessment and should be constructive. Please remember that virtually all students strive to do their best during assessments, and are keen to know how to do better. The assessor should expand on the reasons for any ratings “Below Expectations” and make practical suggestions for any remedial steps if appropriate.

PLEASE NOTE: The long case will form part of your assessment (but will NOT be the sole basis of assessment).