

DIRECT OBSERVATION CLINICAL ENCOUNTER EXAMINATION (DOCEE)				
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DOCEE: DIRECT OBSERVATION CLINICAL ENCOUNTER EXAMINATION

1. Typical encounter is expected to follow the following steps:

Component	Est. duration* (min.)
1. Introduction and focused history taking	7
2. Focused physical examination	7
3. Presentation of case and differential diagnosis	3
4. Investigations and interpretation of results	7
5. Diagnosis and management plan	6
Total	30

*Estimated duration may differ for every clerkship

- A DOCEE encounter is expected to last 30-40 minutes (not to exceed 45 minutes).
- Each encounter should be witnessed from start to end by 2 independent examiners, both of whom should have equal contributions in terms of questions and input about the student's evaluation.
- Each encounter would involve 1 case; cases to be used in the exam are to be determined the day before the scheduled exam and verbal consent needs to be obtained before-hand. Assigned cases should have a diagnosis within the scope of the clerkship learning objectives - patients are expected to be able to provide a history and give permission for physical examination.
- DOCEE assessment forms should be completed and signed immediately after each encounter and delivered to the student services officer within 5 working days of the exam date.
- DOCEE grade is calculated out of 100 points - student's grade would be the average of both examiners who are expected to award grades independently.
- A minimum score of 70% is required in the DOCEE regardless of the final clerkship grade. Students cannot pass the clerkship without attaining the minimum pass mark in the DOCEE, and they will need to have re-sit at a future date.
- Examiners should allow the candidate to complete their clinical examination without interruption or direction, unless it is evident that the candidate needs guidance on how to proceed, or they are causing the patient discomfort.

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9. Examiners should not make any remarks to the candidate about their ongoing performance, irrespective of whether the performance is judged to be good or bad.
10. Examiners should avoid teaching or coaching candidates during their assessment.
11. Examiners should always maintain an awareness of patient dignity and modesty as well as comfort and safety.
12. Patients are entitled to withdraw their consent at any time during the encounter. Patients' wishes should be respected.

1. Purpose

To establish the rules and policies regarding DOCEE.

2. Scope

Process of organizing, conducting and evaluating the DOCEE during Year 4 clerkships

3. Definitions and Acronyms

3.1. DOCEE: DIRECT OBSERVATION CLINICAL ENCOUNTER EXAMINATION

4. Responsibility

Year 4 medical students, clerkship coordinators, F2 doctors, clinical tutors, hospital coordinators, adjunct and joint faculty members, student services officer, office assistant, adjunct technical support officer.

5. Procedure

5.1. Description of examination

5.1.1 Components of the DOCEE are:

1. Clinical skills
 - History taking
 - Physical examination
 - Data organization & presentation
2. Reasoning & analysis skills
 - Identification of problem(s)
 - Differential Diagnoses and final diagnosis
3. Decision-making skills
 - Requesting relevant investigation
 - Interpretation of laboratory and radiological tests

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- Identification of appropriate management plan
 - Consideration of priority and sequence of investigations and treatment
4. Professional attitude
- Approach and respect to patient
 - Communication skills (with patient and examiner)

5.1.2. Typical encounter is expected to follow the following steps:

Component	Est. duration* (min.)
1. Introduction and focused history taking	7
2. Focused physical examination	7
3. Presentation of case and differential diagnosis	3
4. Investigations and interpretation of results	7
5. Diagnosis and management plan	6
Total	30

*Estimated duration may differ for every clerkship

5.1.3. Each encounter should be witnessed from start to end by 2 independent examiners.

5.1.4. A DOCEE encounter is expected to last 30-40 minutes (not to exceed 45 minutes).

5.1.5. Examiners are required to complete and sign individual DOCEE assessment forms immediately after each encounter. Summary of case should be included in the relevant section of the form (age, sex, diagnosis etc.).

5.1.6. Examiners may write any additional comments in the relevant section of the assessment form. Although this is optional, a detailed explanation would be required in case of a failing grade being awarded describing the reason(s) for failing the student.

5.1.7. Each student will undertake one DOCEE at the end of each sub-rotation; on the 5th and 9th week of each rotation, for a total of TWO DOCEEs.

5.1.8. The best of the two DOCEES will be counted in the final grade.

5.1.9. A minimum score of 70% is required in the DOCEE regardless of the final clerkship grade. Students cannot pass the clerkship without attaining the minimum pass mark in the DOCEE, and they will need to have re-sit at a future date.

5.1.10. DOCEE assessment forms are to be delivered to the student services officer within 5 working days of the exam date, signed by the examiners.

5.2. Examiners

5.2.1. Faculty members who are eligible to conduct the DOCEE exam will be decided by the clerkship coordinator.

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- 5.2.2. Examiners are expected to be licensed physicians designated as senior consultants, consultants, senior specialists or specialists. Physicians with other designations will be considered on an individual basis.
- 5.2.3. Orientation sessions will be conducted regularly on the standard format of the DOCEE, DOCEE rubric and assessment form, if requested.
- 5.2.4. Results of student feedback as well as post-exam analysis of reliability and validity will be shared with examiners.
- 5.2.5. Examiners are expected to be physicians working at the hospital where the students are to be examined and who are involved in training of students.
- 5.2.6. In case of a shortage of examiners, clerkship coordinators may assign an external examiner in coordination with the hospital coordinator.
- 5.2.7 Both examiners should have equal contributions in DOCEE in terms of questions and input about the student's evaluation.

5.3. Cases (patients) for DOCEE

- 5.3.1. Each DOCEE encounter would involve 1 case.
- 5.3.2. Cases to be used in the exam are to be determined the day before the scheduled exam and verbal consent needs to be obtained before-hand.
- 5.3.3. Cases assigned should be chosen carefully to ensure a successful DOCEE encounter. Patients are expected to be able to provide a history and give permission for physical examination.
- 5.3.4. Hospital coordinator is responsible for choosing patients and assigning them to students in liaison with the designated F2 doctor/clinic tutor.
- 5.3.5. Cases should have a diagnosis within the scope of the clerkship learning objectives, from a predetermined list of topics.

5.4. Grading and weightage

- 5.4.1. DOCEE is a component of continuous assessment and has a weightage of 20% from the final clerkship grade.
- 5.4.2. DOCEE grade is calculated out of 100 points.
- 5.4.3. Two independent examiners are required to complete individual DOCEE assessment forms.
- 5.4.4. Student's grade would be the average of both examiners who are expected to award grades independently.

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5.4.5. Weightage of each component of the DOCEE is determined by the clerkship coordinator based on the assessment blueprint for each clerkship. Weightage may differ between clerkships.

5.5. Reliability and Validity assessment

5.5.1. Inter-rator agreement/variability is determined for every encounter.

5.5.2. In case of significant discrepancy (more than 10 %) in grades awarded by the two examiners, a review will be conducted by the clerkship coordinator.

5.5.3. Individual analysis of examiners' grades will also be conducted to determine grading patterns.

5.6. General instructions

5.6.1. Examiners are expected to follow a non-discriminatory way in terms of attitudes, assumptions and beliefs.

5.6.2. Examiners should allow the candidate to complete their clinical examination without interruption or direction, unless it is evident that the candidate needs guidance on how to proceed, or they are causing the patient discomfort.

5.6.3. One examiner should lead the assessment of the candidate. When that examiner concludes their questioning, they should ask their co-examiner to ask further questions.

5.6.4. Examiners should not make any remarks to the candidate about their ongoing performance, irrespective of whether the performance is judged to be good or bad.

5.6.5. Examiners should avoid teaching or coaching candidates during their assessment.

5.6.6. Examiners should always maintain an awareness of patient comfort and safety.

5.6.7. The dignity and modesty of all patients must always be respected. Examiners should ensure that the degree of exposure of a patient is acceptable to the patient and is maintained throughout the exam.

5.6.8. Patients are entitled to withdraw their consent at anytime during the encounter. Patients' wishes should be respected.

5.6.9. Examiners should be aware of the impact of discussions regarding a patient on that patient. Ideally, candidate questioning should take place out of the earshot of the patient, and if this is not possible examiners should ensure that any information discussed is clarified for the patient, particularly when erroneous information has been stated by a candidate.

6. Document storage location

6.1. Secure filing cabinet in student services officer's office

7. Related documents

7.1. Clerkship manual

7.2. DOCEE rubrics

7.3. DOCEE assessment form

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8. Change log

Revision date	Prepared by	Approved by	Description of changes
08/02/2021	Ali Shorbagi	Salman Guraya	