

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Candidates

Scenario

Jean Logan is a 55-year-old woman with a long history of recurrent depressive disorder. She is currently moderately depressed, but has not responded to antidepressant treatment. She has been expressing suicidal ideation, and was admitted to hospital one week ago. She is currently an informal patient.

Your consultant has suggested ECT.

Instructions

Explain to the patient what the treatment entails.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAND YOUR IDENTITY LABEL TO THE
EXAMINER**

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
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Communication Skills: Consent for ECT

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Patients

Answer questions based on the following scenario.

Do not volunteer information unless asked.

This station tests the candidate's ability to explain the pros and cons of electroconvulsive therapy with a depressed patient.

You are Jean Logan, a 55-year-old woman.

Key Attributes

You are depressed, with reduced facial expression and eye contact. Your speech is a little drawn out. You find it difficult to maintain concentration. You are gloomy and pessimistic. Throughout the interview, you are anxious, and this is intensified by the mention of ECT.

Key Dialogue

When ECT is mentioned, you should say, "Oh God, no...never". You agree, however, to listen to the doctor.

If the candidate does not answer these questions specifically, you should ask the following questions:

1. *Does it cause brain damage?*
2. *Does it hurt?*
3. *What if I don't wake up?*
4. *How long will it be before I feel better?*
5. *What are the side effects?*
6. *Will my memory be okay afterwards?*

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Communication Skills: Consent for ECT

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Instructions for Examiners

***REMEMBER TO ASK THE STUDENT FOR THEIR IDENTITY LABEL AND
AFFIX IT TO THE TOP OF THE MARK SHEET.***

This is an OSCE station testing communication skills. The candidate will have to be able to demonstrate:

1. Ability to establish rapport and trust
2. Competence in discussing a contentious treatment with patients
3. Ability to convey the potential benefits of ECT without over-emphasising them
4. Honesty when discussing adverse effects
5. Competence in helping a patient make a decision about treatment
6. Awareness of issues of consent and capacity

Station Number

Examiner's Name:

.....

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Communication Skills: Consent for ECT

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Marking Sheet

Please circle the appropriate mark for each criterion. The standard expected is that of a psychiatric Senior House Officer.

Criterion	Performed competently	Performed, but not fully competent	Not performed		
Approach to the patient – Rapport, empathy, and style	2	1	0		
Basic Description of ECT (one point for each, up to a maximum of 4):					
• Patient is given a general anaesthetic	1	½	0		
• Use of electricity	1	½	0		
• Production of a seizure, which is modified by muscle relaxants	1	½	0		
• Usually given twice a week	1	½	0		
• The usual course is 8-12 treatments	1	½	0		
Potential benefits (one point for each, up to a maximum of 3):					
• 72% of patients show improvement	1	½	0		
• Mood improvements within 1-2 weeks	1	½	0		
• Most effective used in combination with antidepressants	1	½	0		
Side effects (1point for each, up to a maximum of 3):					
• Memory effects	1	½	0		
• Headache	1	½	0		
• Nausea	1	½	0		
Risks, including:					
• Risk of death small (1 in 100,000)	2	1	0		
• Not everyone responds					
Respect for autonomy of patient, including:					
• Involves patient in decisions	2	1	0		
• Explains that an immediate decision is not required					
• Offers more information to patient					
Overall Approach to Task	4	3	2	1	0

Score (Max 20)

Overall Grading of station

Clear Pass

Borderline

Clear Fail