

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Candidates

Scenario

You are the SHO on-call. Earlier today you saw a 27-year-old man called Robert Mutch. He had a 3-year history of schizophrenia, non-compliance with medication, and was acutely psychotic with paranoid delusions. He was also voicing thoughts of violently attacking a neighbour whom he thought was spying on him. He was lacking insight and was refusing to come into hospital. You were unable to contact family members and you felt that you had no option but to detain him under Section 24 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984/ Section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Consent was fairly easily forthcoming from the Mental Health Officer.

It is early evening and his father has come up to hospital. He has requested to see you. The nursing staff tell you that he wishes to know why his son was detained in hospital.

Instructions

Speak to his father, and answer any questions he has.

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

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
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Communication Skills: Relative of a detained
patient

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Patients

Answer questions based on the following scenario.

Do not volunteer information unless asked.

This station tests the candidate's skills in defusing an angry situation and give information to the relative of a patient who has been detained under the mental health act.

You are Gerard Mutch, the 54-year-old father of Robert, who has been sectioned under the mental health act.

Key Attributes

You are very angry and demanding. You are incensed at the doctor who you feel has given your son little time. It is your view that he was sectioned because that was "the easiest thing to do", and that "that is what psychiatrists do".

Your anger will only abate if the doctor acknowledges your anger and attempts to offer you honest explanations of the afternoon's events. If the doctor simply says that he cannot tell you anything and refuses to do so, this will only make you angrier.

Key Dialogue

You have a number of questions that you should ask:

1. "How long is this section for?"
2. "I want to appeal this section. Can you tell me how I do this?"
3. "I've spoken to junior doctors before. I want to speak to a consultant. Will you call him please?"
4. "What happens when the section runs out? Does it automatically get extended like sections before?"
5. "What treatment are you going to give him?
 - a. And if he doesn't take it, are you going to force him to take it?"

As background information, you are very protective of your son, who has been sectioned in hospital a number of times before. You have had very difficult experiences of the mental health services and feel that your son is often failed by them.

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Communication Skills: Relative of a detained
patient

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Examiners

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

This station is a combination of two skills/ knowledge areas:

1. Knowledge of emergency detention under the mental health act
2. Ability to explain information to an angry relative, as well as general communication and de-escalation skills.

Much of the scoring for this station is weighted according to the skills that the candidate demonstrates in putting the relative at ease, along with general communication skills.

For a pass, the candidate should not just provide information – they have to prove that they can handle potentially confrontational situations.

This question should be equally applicable to the mental health acts of Scotland and England and Wales. The candidate is not expected to have detailed knowledge of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

Station Number

Examiner's Name:

.....

AFFIX CANDIDATE LABEL HERE

Communication Skills: Relative of a detained patient

CANDIDATE No:.....

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 | 4 | 2 | 0 | | |
| Understanding of the duration of emergency detention powers | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Knowledge of the rights to appeal under emergency detention | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Skill in handling the question over a more senior opinion | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Able to explain what happens when the section expires | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Knowledge that there is no right to enforce treatment under emergency detention and that any compulsory treatment would have to be under common law | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Ability to put the relative at ease, de-escalate the situation, and ensure that the person's agenda is met | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Overall Approach to Task | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Score (Max 20)

Overall Grading of station

Clear Pass

Borderline

Clear Fail