

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Candidates

Scenario

You are the SHO in the team who is looking after Michael Harris, a 27-year-old married man who has recently been diagnosed with schizophrenia. You are meeting Michael's wife who has asked to speak to a doctor about the drugs that Michael is on.

His current drug treatment is Risperidone 4mg per day.

Instructions

Discuss drug treatment for schizophrenia with her.

You are not expected to discuss psychosocial interventions for schizophrenia.

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

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

Communication Skills: Explaining Treatment of
Schizophrenia

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 explaining drug treatment of schizophrenia to the wife of a patient.

You are Julie Harris, a 26-year-old woman.

Key Attributes

You are a young mother who has been married for less than a year to someone who has developed his first schizophrenic episode. You have little knowledge of mental health problems, and see schizophrenia as being synonymous with dangerous. You have no background in medical or nursing issues and have no knowledge of symptoms or terminology.

You have been scared by Michael's recent psychotic episode and are seeking reassurance from the doctor. If you are uncertain about something, you have to ask.

Key Dialogue

The questions you want answered are:

1. How long will it take before Michael is 'back to normal'?
2. Is the medication addictive?
3. Does it cause brain damage?
4. What are the side effects?
5. How long does he have to take it for?
6. What happens if he stops it?

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
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Communication Skills: Explaining Treatment of
Schizophrenia

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 tests the following skills:

1. Ability to quickly develop rapport and trust with a concerned relative
2. Allowing the patient to express their concerns and guide discussion
3. Knowledge of the treatment of schizophrenia, including appropriate drug treatments, current guidelines, and side effects of common medications
4. Ability to communicate this knowledge appropriately to a relative

The candidate has not been given the name of the patient's wife. It is expected that they should ask this since it is important for rapport.

Station Number

Examiner's Name:

.....

AFFIX CANDIDATE LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

Communication Skills: Explaining Treatment of Schizophrenia

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		
• Asks for relative's name	1	½	0		
Allows relative to ask questions they have first	1	½	0		
Mechanism of action					
• Appropriate discussion of how the drugs are thought to work, in the context of our understanding of schizophrenia	2	1	0		
• Mention of neurotransmitters (Dopamine) and how 'imbalances' may cause symptoms	2	1	0		
Explains Michael's current treatment:					
• Name and type of drug (Risperidone, antipsychotic)	1	½	0		
• Why atypical drugs are first-line treatment in most cases, and why typical are still often used	1	½	0		
Side effects					
• Mention of common side effects (such as sedation, weight gain, EPS with older drugs, diabetes, cardiac rhythm problems, blood dyscrasias)	2	1	0		
• Explains how side-effects are managed	1	½	0		
Benefits of medication in terms of symptom control and relapse prevention (1 point for each, up to a maximum of 3):					
• Appropriate discussion of reduced risk of relapse whilst taking medication	1	½	0		
• Likely duration of treatment	1	½	0		
• Risk of relapse if medication stopped	1	½	0		
• Appropriate mention of role of depot medication if compliance is a problem	1	½	0		
Overall Approach to Task	4	3	2	1	0
Score (Max 20)					
Overall Grading of station	Clear Pass		Borderline		Clear Fail