

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE  
LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

### Instructions for Candidates

#### Scenario

You are working as part of the drugs and alcohol service. You are asked to see a 23-year-old man who is complaining of opiate withdrawal.

#### Instructions

Assess him for opiate withdrawal, explaining to the examiner what you are looking for.

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

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE  
LABEL HERE

Examination Skills: Opiate Withdrawal

CANDIDATE No:.....

### Instructions for Patients

**Allow the candidate to test specific skills without interruption. Please do not ask them what they are doing – the examiner should be doing this.**

This station tests the candidate's skills in assessing a patient who is complaining of heroin withdrawal.

#### Key Dialogue

The candidate should comment to the examiner as he/ she is completing the task.

You may be asked specific questions. The answers that you should provide are given below:

1. *Do you have any cravings for heroin/ methadone/ codeine/ DF118?*
  - Yes
2. *Do you have any joint pain?*
  - No
3. *Do you have any muscle pain?*
  - Yes, your muscles ache.
4. *Do you have any abdominal cramps?*
  - Yes
5. *Do you have any diarrhoea or vomiting?*
  - You haven't been vomiting, but you have had loose bowel motions in the last 12 hours or so.

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Examination Skills: Opiate Withdrawal

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 OSCE station tests the candidate's ability in assessing opiate withdrawal symptoms.

As the candidate completes the tasks, he/ she should explain to you what they are doing, and why they are doing it.

If they do not do this, please prompt them to comment on what they are doing and what they are looking for.

Station Number

Examiner's Name:

.....

AFFIX CANDIDATE  
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Examination Skills: Opiate Withdrawal

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
<b>Approach to the patient – Rapport, empathy, and style; explains what they are going to do</b>	2	1	0
<b>Asks about the following symptoms (two points for each, up to a maximum of 5):</b>			
a) Craving for heroin	2	1	0
b) Arthralgia	2	1	0
c) Myalgia	2	1	0
d) Abdominal cramps	2	1	0
e) Vomiting, diarrhoea	2	1	0
<b>Candidate says that they would look for, or clearly examines for the following signs (one point for each, up to a maximum of 9):</b>			
a) Piloerection (candidate should feel skin)	1	½	0
b) Dilated pupils	1	½	0
c) Lacrimation	1	½	0
d) Rhinorrhoea	1	½	0
e) Yawning	1	½	0
f) Sweating	1	½	0
g) Hyper/ Hypotension	1	½	0
h) Tachypnoea (candidate must be seen to look for (and time) this)	1	½	0
i) Tachycardia	1	½	0
j) Fever	1	½	0
k) Dehydration (can be measured clinically)	1	½	0
l) Hyperglycaemia (candidate should ask for equipment to do this)	1	½	0
<b>Overall Approach to Task</b>	4	3	2
			1
			0

Score (Max 20)

Overall Grading of station

Clear Pass

Borderline

Clear Fail

Station Number

Examination Skills: Opiate Withdrawal

**Requirements for this station**

*The following should be made available for this station:*

1. Stethoscope
2. Sphygmomanometer
3. Thermometer
4. Pen torch