

THE PROLIFERATION OF PERFORMANCE-BASED EXAMS: ETHICAL, EDUCATIONAL OR EXCESSIVE?

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Overview

At most medical schools there is more testing of performance than ever before. OSCEs, oral exams, CEXs and their many variations are a constant factor in the life of students. This workshop examines the effect of all these exams through educational and ethical lenses.

Workshop elements

What is behind the explosion of performance-based testing? First we will explore the invention and widespread uptake of tests of performance that began to eclipse tests of knowledge in the latter part of the twentieth century.

What are the effects and side-effects of all this testing? Next we will examine the effects that this proliferation of performance-based examinations has had on students and teaching- both positive and negative.

How do we use performance examinations most effectively? The final part of the workshop will explore best practices in performance-based assessment and focus on ways to reduce side-effects that arise from over-use or inappropriate use of certain testing methodologies.

Target audience

Health professional educators or students involved in the creation, administration or experience of performance-based examinations.