

The purpose of an interactive OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) is to simulate a potential real-life interaction a pharmacist may have with a patient/GP or other healthcare professional in a community or hospital pharmacy. OSCEs are commonly conducted as an assessment in university healthcare courses, including pharmacy. A general overview concerning an OSCE examination may be found at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Objective_structured_clinical_examination

For the PSI Equivalence Examination, there will be 12 OSCE stations in total, 6 live/interactive OSCE stations and 6 written OSCE stations.

- Each station will be 7 minutes in duration.
- Candidates who begin with the live OSCE stations will complete all 6 live OSCE stations first before completing the written OSCE stations, and vice versa.

There are many on-line sources of information with regards to preparing for live/interactive pharmacy OSCEs, including YouTube videos. An example of a YouTube interactive/live pharmacy OSCE is

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKZ68slmQaQ&list=PLHgM9DbTQZOQ4OzBW6oRFsX_J0TrKJ7Lt&index=2

This YouTube OSCE above focuses on counselling and dispensing a new medicine to a patient on foot of a prescription. This is one of many, literally hundreds, of possible live/interactive OSCEs and is intended solely as an example as to what a typical OSCE might encompass for the PSI Equivalence Exam.

For the UCC live OSCEs, the pharmacist (ie yourself, the candidate) will not have to take hand written notes as in the YouTube video above. You will have a short period of time prior to the beginning of the OSCE scenario to familiarise yourself with the OSCE station. This will take the form of brief instructions provided to you as to what the station will focus on/how the OSCE scenario will commence. The OSCE itself will begin after this brief familiarisation period. Each station, both live and written, will last a strict 7 minutes after the initial familiarisation period has ended.

For each live/interactive OSCE station in UCC, there will be a “patient”, “doctor” or some other person who will be interacting directly with you, as per the patient in the above YouTube video. There will be an additional person standing nearby at each interactive OSCE station marking you under various headings, such as communication skills, appropriate interaction with the patient, etc. The marking will be tailored to each OSCE station.

Depending on the live OSCE station and the theme of the station, you may be provided with one or more appropriate resources. Examples may include, but are not limited to, a prescription, the SPC of a medicine, the medicine itself, a literature source such as the BNF, the patient medical record (PMR) that the “pharmacy” holds for the patient, etc.

The Written OSCE stations do not involve actors nor a marker by each station. One example of a written OSCE would be, but is not limited to, the interpretation of a Hospital Drug Chart/Kardex for, for example, drug omissions, calculation of doses, prescribing errors, appropriate prescribing, etc. With written OSCE stations, you will be giving a written answer to the scenario rather than a verbal reply. These scenarios may also involve, but are not limited to, interpretation of simulated prescriptions, patient health data, performing a review of drug literature or drug datasheets provided at the station.

Depending on the written OSCE station and the theme of the station, you may be provided with one or more resources, such as a prescription, Patient hospital drug Kardex, the SPC of a medicine, the medicine itself, dosing recommendations for a medicine, a literature source such as the BNF, etc, etc.

Once the 7 minutes are up for each station, you will be asked to promptly move to the next station.

The 7 minute time period can go by much faster than you think, so you need to ensure that you are organised and efficient in your approach to an OSCE station, and that you can complete the station in the allocated time period.

There are many videos of live OSCEs available on YouTube. Links to further examples are below. Please note that these scenarios are similar to a scenarios which I am sure you have come across in your own previous interactions with patients. The examples below are not intended to be exhaustive. They were recorded in Canada, but are also very applicable to help you prepare for the UCC live OSCEs. You will find many more OSCE scenarios on You Tube and from other sources on line. A book which you may find useful is Pharmacy OSCEs, A Revision Guide, published by the Pharmaceutical Press.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3acqNHHFod0&index=3&list=PLHgM9DbTQZOQ4OzBW6oRFsX_J0TrKJ7Lt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgEwf4T53MU&list=PLHgM9DbTQZOQ4OzBW6oRFsX_J0TrKJ7Lt&index=4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fWVP1b579o&list=PLHgM9DbTQZOQ4OzBW6oRFsX_J0TrKJ7Lt&index=5

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpyGx6ANi-U&index=10&list=PLHgM9DbTQZOQ4OzBW6oRFsX_J0TrKJ7Lt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6uDAViLie4&index=11&list=PLHgM9DbTQZOQ4OzBW6oRFsX_J0TrKJ7Lt