

Royal College of Psychiatrists

Clinical Assessment of Skills and Competencies- Areas of Concern (effective 31st March 2011)

Below are listed the domains of areas of concern that examiners select from at each station. At all stations the 'Areas of Concern' are limited to these five options. It is intended that these are used for formative feedback to enable candidates who fail to achieve a pass mark address any concerns identified by the examiners on the day. They are not a summative assessment and do not constitute a scoring system in the examination.

Each "Area of Concern" encompasses several subsidiary concerns; these are detailed below. It is hoped that by providing broad domains of concerns that trainees and their trainers can practice for the examination using a common way of feeding back enabling potential problems to be addressed.

Poor management of interview/discussion

This domain is focused on the conduct of the interview/task and includes concerns such as:

Lack of focus on the required task.

Lack of fluency to the task.

Interviewer interrupts the role player excessively.

Interviewer allows the role player to dictate the theme of the consultation.

Poor management of the interview.

Fails to follow a line of enquiry/discussion to a logical end point.

Poor communication skills

This domain is focused on the style of interaction between the doctor and the interviewee and includes concerns such as:

Use of medical jargon without explanation.

Use of predominantly closed questions.

Use of multiple questions.

Uses inappropriately phrased questions.

Failure to listen/identify/respond to concerns or cues from the interviewee.

Lack of flexibility of questioning style.

Lack of empathic response.

Lack of eye contact/non-verbal responses.

Poor body language.

Significant deviations from the task

This domain is focused on the content of the interview/task and includes concerns such as:

- Omissions related to poor prioritisation of the task.
- Omissions related to lack of knowledge/ability.
- Lack of recognition of importance of aspects of the task.
- Inappropriate avenues of enquiry or discussion.
- Inaccurate or misleading information discussed.
- Lack of analysis of problems and synthesis of opinion.

Lack of professionalism

This domain is focused on the manner of the candidate and includes concerns such as:

- Harmful interaction likely to cause either psychological or physical distress.
- Failure to respect the interviewee's rights.
- Rudeness or arrogance.
- Inappropriate or flippant manner.
- Dismissive attitude to interviewee's concerns.

Limited depth and/or range to the task

This domain is focused on the thoroughness of the interview/task and includes concerns such as:

- Aspects of history or mental state highlighted but not explored in depth or appropriate manner (not the same as an omission – eg. some aspects of orientation covered in a cognitive test such as time and place, but orientation in person not covered).
- Inadequate or superficial risk assessment.
- Poor range of symptomatology explored.
- Limited/incomplete explanation of concepts/problem.
- Limited or incomplete management plan.