

Mini-CEX - Notes for Paediatric Surgery Trainees and their Clinical Assessors.

What is mini-CEX?

The mini-CEX is designed to assess skills essential to the provision of good clinical care and to facilitate feedback in order to drive learning. It is a formative assessment. The assessment involves the Clinical Assessor observing the trainee interact with a patient in a normal clinical encounter. The Clinical Assessor's evaluation is recorded on a structured checklist which enables the Clinical Assessor to provide verbal development feedback to the trainee immediately after the encounter.

TRAINEES can use it to:

- Assess themselves against important criteria as they perform practical tasks
 - Build on assessor feedback
 - Chart their own progress
 - Produce evidence of competence for final review
- **The method also serves the purposes of:**
- Developing the dialogue between the trainee and their Clinical Assessor
 - Forming a portfolio of formative assessments at the completion of each term as to the level of performance achieved.

How does it work?

The process is trainee led; the trainee, in liaison with their Clinical Assessor, chooses both the timing and the type of problem to be assessed. It is the trainee's responsibility to ensure completion of the required number and type of assessments by the end of each 3 month assessment term. However, a Clinical Assessor may instigate an assessment anytime during the assessment period, if there are any concerns. The Board of Paediatric Surgery in consultation with the Clinical Assessors will mandate the frequency and types of Mini-Cex assessments.

The Clinical Assessor observes the trainee undertaking the clinical encounter, doing what they would normally do in that situation. After completing the observation and evaluation the Clinical Assessor provides immediate feedback to the trainee. Feedback generally takes about 5 minutes.

Summary

- Observed clinical encounter evaluated against good clinical practice
- Evaluation of a trainee's ability to communicate, examine, reason and organise when encountering clinical problems.
- Use as a teaching and feedback tool in trainee development of diagnostic and clinical management skills.