1. MINI-CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The mini-clinical examination (mini-CEX) is designed to assess skills essential to the provision of good clinical care and to facilitate feedback in order to drive learning.

The assessment involves the Clinical Assessor observing the IMG 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 IMG immediately after the encounter.

The mini-clinical examination (mini-CEX) is a method of assessing a range of clinical assessment and management skills in various clinical settings. It facilitates feedback in order to develop behaviours and performance related to knowledge, communication, decision-making, management and advocacy skills.

The assessment is formative, aimed at guiding further development of surgical practice.

The nature and complexity of the patient's condition should be commensurate with what the IMG as a consultant surgeon would be expected to encounter in relevant surgical practice.

All IMGs on a specialist pathway are required to complete at least one satisfactory mini-CEX assessment during each 3-month term whilst under supervision or oversight.

IMGs may choose which of their supervisors will act as the assessor.

Assessors are required to conduct a formal assessment in the real world clinical setting, assessing and marking the identified areas.

2. CLINICAL ASSESSORS

The process is IMG led; the IMG chooses the timing, the problem under the guidance of the Clinical Assessor through the learning agreement. It is the IMG’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 Clinical Assessor observes the IMG 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 IMG. Feedback generally takes about 5 minutes.

3. INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

IMGs can use a mini-CEX to assess themselves against important criteria as they learn and perform practical tasks. They can also build on the assessor’s feedback and chart their own progress.

Mini-CEXs provide the opportunity to develop dialogue between with the Clinical Assessor and to form a portfolio of formative assessments to demonstrate the level of competence achieved.

4. OUTCOMES

Observed clinical encounter evaluated against good clinical practice

Evaluation of an IMG’s ability to communicate, examine, reason and organise when encountering clinical problems.