Preparing Trainees for the CSA
GP Educator and Practice Manager Day
Cambridge- July 2019

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The aim of the CSA is to test a doctor’s ability to gather information and apply learned understanding of disease processes and *person-centred* care appropriately in a standardised context, make evidence-based decisions, and communicate effectively with patients and colleagues.

Being able to integrate these skills effectively is a key element of this assessment.
The CSA

• It is what we do everyday.....isn’t it?

• 13 stations
• 10 mins per station
• Cover any area of the curriculum

• Expensive £1685
• Disabilities
GPRs

What happens on the day?

- morning or afternoon
- candidate briefing

- 7 cases, break, 6 cases
- might have visitors
- problem on the day?
Examiners
What happens on the day?

- Morning briefing
- 90 minute Calibration
- Morning circuit starts 10am
- 7 cases then 6 cases

Afternoon circuit starts at 2pm
How the CSA is marked

Three domains:

- Data Gathering
- Clinical Management
- Interpersonal Skills
Marking

- Clear Fail (0 points)
- Fail (1 point)
- Pass (2 points)
- Clear Pass (3 points)

- Total possible in each case = 9
- Total mark is out of 117 (13x9)
- Pass/Fail/Borderline
Data gathering

- Identifies abnormal findings or results & makes appropriate interpretations. Clarifies the problem & nature of decision required.

- Gathers information from history taking, examination and investigation in a systematic and efficient manner.

- Is appropriately selective in the choice of enquiries, examinations & investigations.

- When using instruments or conducting physical examinations, performs actions in a rational sequence.
Clinical Management

• Recognises presentation
• Makes plans and offers appropriate and feasible management options
• Risk management
• Refers appropriately
• Evidenced based management
• Encourages patient participation
Interpersonal Skills

• Explores patient’s agenda, health beliefs & preferences
• Works in partnership, finding common ground to develop a shared management plan
• Communicates risk effectively
• Shows responsiveness to the patient's preferences
• Provides explanations that are relevant and understandable
• Responds to needs & concerns with interest & understanding
• Acts in an open, non-judgmental manner
• The Flat Tyre...
How do you support your trainee?

• What has worked well?

• What hasn’t?

• How have you adapted your approach?
Practical ways to support your trainee

- Educational Supervisor - get a plan
- Joint and observed surgeries and videos
- Identify concerns early on and seek support
- Study groups
- Patient contact - wide range of curriculum exposure
- Focus your feedback – benchmark your assessment
- When to sit?
- What if they fail?
Resources available

RCGP website
Books
Case cards
Courses *
Online support *
Peer support *
What about you?

It is a Team Game...

- Familiarise yourself with the exam
- Speak to your TPD
- PSU
- Trainer group COT calibration
- Visit the RCGP CSA Exam
- Become an examiner*
The future...

CSA SOX

• A description and evaluation of an educational programme for North West England GP trainees who have multiple fails in the Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA)

• Anne Hawkridge & David Molyneux

• Education for Primary Care - 6th Feb 2019