



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

# Preparing Trainees for the CSA

GP Educator and Practice Manager Day  
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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 \*

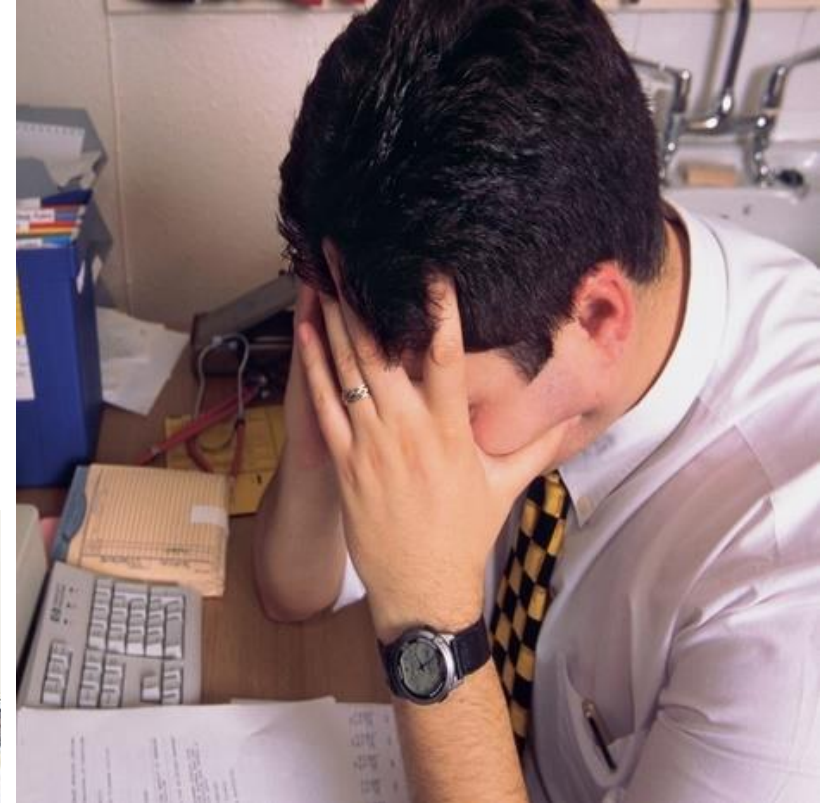
Online support \*

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 Hawkrigde](#) & [David Molyneux](#)
- Education for Primary Care - 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019

