

Directly Observed Procedural Skills

Purpose

It is essential that all trainees should be adequately assessed for competence in the practical procedures that they undertake. Directly Observed Procedural Skills (DOPS) is a method similar to the mini-CEX that has been designed specifically for the assessment of practical skills.

Completing a DOPS

Different DOPS will be required for different levels of training and the procedures you should undertake during your training should be appropriate to the posts you are in.

See required procedures in your training program for a listing of procedures you are expected to master during training.

Administration of DOPS

DOPS can be completed by Senior Nurses, experienced higher level trainees as well as physician trainers.

Feedback

Immediate feedback should be provided after each encounter by the assessor rating the trainee. Assessors are encouraged to use the full range of the rating scale. Following discussion of the encounter the assessment record should then be filled out. Immediate feedback focusing on aspects of the discussion of the encounter where you felt the trainee did especially well (anything especially good), suggestions for development and any agreed action should be provided and documented. In order to maximize the educational impact of using DOPS trainees and trainers will need to identify agreed strengths, areas for development and an action plan for each encounter.