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EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

Summary of changes to the delivery of Dip PEC(SA) online OSPE exam

To ensure that candidates can continue to progress through training, we will be delivering the Dip Pec SA) OSPE online using a platform called Zoom.

In this online delivery, both examiners and candidates will participate virtually.

There is no change to the format of the OSPE, only the delivery method has changed. In the online format, questions have been revised so candidates do not need to demonstrate. Instead, candidates may be shown videos and photographs and asked to comment on the images to demonstrate their understanding.

OSPE

In the online delivery, there will be 4 live stations. The duration of the assessment time within each station is 10 minutes but additional time has been included to support any potential issues with internet connection. There will also be 3.5 preparation time prior to each station

The question types in the OSPE will be the same as in the face-to-face examination, with the exceptions below:

The Simulation and Interactive Resus stations use existing questions which have been adapted to the virtual format. These questions will now have photographs, images and videos relevant to the scenario.

Questions where candidates were asked to 'show' or 'demonstrate' a skill have been adapted to 'tell' or 'describe'.

Equipment will be presented as a photograph.

In communication questions that require a role-player, an actor may be present by video link.

The Structured oral exam (SOE) assesses candidate's knowledge and understanding of the basic sciences and clinical decision-making through a series of structured oral interviews with examiners.

An example breakdown of the 4 stations in the online delivery is shown below:

Station 1: Interactive Resuscitation/Structured Oral

Station 2: Resuscitation Equipment

Station 3: Communication (e.g. Teaching, Breaking bad news, Structured Oral)

Station 4: Interactive Resuscitation