

**Station title:** Assessment of patient with shortness of breath

**Station duration:** 6 mins

**Station Speciality:** Perioperative and Emergency Medicine



## **Student Instructions**

### **Station 8**

### **Year 4 BHSCT MOSCE**

#### **Background information to station:**

You are a Foundation Doctor working in the Emergency department.

This 26-year-old woman is short of breath.

#### **Specific student instructions:**

1. Assess this patient using an 'ABCDE' approach.
2. Initiate emergency treatment.
3. The examiner will ask you 2 questions at the end of the station

There will be a warning bell when 1 minute is left in the station

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## **Examiner Instructions**

### **Station 8**

### **Year 4 BHSCT MOSCE**

**Station author:** Dr Laura Lennox (edited by Pappitha Raja)

#### **Assessment outcome:**

This station assesses the student's ability to:

1. Perform a comprehensive ABCDE assessment.
2. Correctly answer the following questions based on clinical findings and correct diagnosis of asthma exacerbation:
  - (a) Interpret the results of the Arterial Blood Gas provided.
  - (b) Name 2 indications that necessitate a referral to ICU for an exacerbation of asthma?

#### **Background information to station:**

Students are asked to perform the role of a Foundation Doctor in the Emergency Department. They have been asked to review a 26 year old woman who presents with dyspnoea.

#### **Potential areas of serious concern:**

- ✦ Failing to recognise the severity of the episode of shortness of breath

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## ASSESSMENT OF ACUTELY UNWELL PATIENT MARKING SHEET

DETAIL / question	MARK	WEIGHTING
1. Overall introduction including identification of self and patient (name & role, purpose of encounter, confirms patient's agreement)	G A P	2 1 0
2. Rapport & professional manner (shows interest, respect, concern, appropriate body language, closure)	G P	1 0
3. Attention to infection control throughout (incl appropriate PPE and clean stethoscope) G:all P: 1 omission	G P	2 0
4. End of the bed inspection (increased respiratory rate, wheeze, patient's position/ inhalers/oxygen) G:3 relevant; A:2; P0-1	G A P	2 1 0
5. <b>Airway:</b> Is the airway patent? Audible stridor? Speaking in full sentences?; Asks for oxygen to be applied and states '15L nonbreather' G: appropriate and oxygen; A:1 omission; P:poor	G A P	4 2 0
6. <b>Breathing:</b> Inspection (RR, Increased WOB, SpO2, how much oxygen) G:2; A:1:P:0	G A P	2 1 0
7. Breathing examination: Central trachea; chest expansion symmetrical; auscultate in at least 4 areas <b>Examiner to state, wheeze audible throughout</b> G:all; A:minor omission;P:poor	G A P	2 1 0
8. Requests ABG, CXR, peak flow G:2; A:1: P:0	G A P	2 1 0
9. Suggests salbutamol/ipratropium nebulisers; steroids (either hydrocortisone or prednisolone; IV magnesium G:3; A:1-2:P:0	G A P	2 1 0
10. <b>Circulation: Skin temp</b> , central cap refill, pulse (volume, rate and rhythm), mucus membranes, JVP, heart sounds G:3; A:1-2:P:0	G A P	4 2 0
11. Asks for ECG, IV access, bloods including FBP, U&E and CRP G:3; A:1-2:P:0	G A P	2 1 0
12. <b>Disability:</b> AVPU, glucose, pupils, meds review G:3; A:1-2:P:0	G A P	2 1 0
13. <b>Exposure</b> check for any rashes, temperature, palpate abdomen G:2; A:1: P:0	G A P	2 1 0
<b>14. Reassess</b>	G P	3 0
15. Examiner to ask, <b>Please interpret the following arterial blood gas.</b> Normal pH, hypoxia and normal CO <sub>2</sub> ; hypoxic/type 1 respiratory failure G:all; A:minor omission; P:incorrect	G A P	2 1 0
16. Examiner to ask, <b>Name 2 indications that necessitate a referral to ICU for an exacerbation of asthma?</b> SpO <sub>2</sub> <92%, silent chest/cyanosis, poor respiratory effort, confusion, PCO <sub>2</sub> normal or raised, PaO <sub>2</sub> <8kPa. G:2; A:1; P:0	G A P	2 1 0

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SP Rating: SA: <i>Strongly agree</i> ; A: <i>Agree</i> ; JA: <i>Just Agree</i> ; N: <i>Neutral</i> ; D: <i>Disagree</i>	SA A JA N D	4 3 2 1 0
Global mark: E: <i>Excellent</i> ; V: <i>Very good</i> ; P: <i>Pass</i> ; B: <i>Borderline</i> ; F: <i>Fail</i>	E V P B F	5 4 3 2 1

**Total score /40** (excluding Global Mark)

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## **Simulated Patient Instructions**

### **Station 8**

### **Year 4 BHSCT MOSCE**

**This station assesses the student's ability to perform an emergency assessment and initiate treatment.**

#### **Background information to station:**

Students are asked to perform the role of a Foundation Doctor in the Emergency Department. They are asked to review you, a 26 year woman who is breathless.

#### **How the role should be portrayed:**

- ✦ Name: Jenny Carr
- ✦ DoB: 12/04/1995
- ✦ The examination will involve:
- ✦ Sitting forward in the bed and appear short of breath. **Act short of breath by only being able to say two-three words without taking a breath.**
- ✦ The examiner will tell the student that there is an **an audible wheeze on inspiration and expiration when they listen to your chest.**
- ✦ They will listen to your breathing using a stethoscope at your back
- ✦ They will listen to your heart using a stethoscope
- ✦ They will check your pulse, the position of your windpipe.
- ✦ They will ask to examine for rashes, palpate your abdomen and temperature- they will be moved on.

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**Clothes/props:** Loose clothing. Separate top and bottoms.

**First sentence (after introductions) if student starts with an open question:**

I have been .... feeling short.... of breath ... since this...morning... it is ... getting..... worse....

Potential question	Response
Do you use any inhalers?/Do you take any medication?	Yes, blue one when I need it and a brown one I use every day
Are you allergic to any medication?	No
Have you ever been to ICU/admitted to hospital with an asthma attack?	Never been to ICU. Admitted x3 times in past year.

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## **Site-Coordinator Instructions**

### **Station 8**

### **Year 4 BHSCT MOSCE**

#### **Equipment check list:**

- Bed
- Stethoscope
- Inhalers
- Sphygmomanometer
- Oxygen saturation probe
- Thermometer
- Oxygen mask (non-rebreather)
- Arterial Blood Gas result (laminated)
- PPE
- Waste bag
- Wipes for stethoscope

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- Oxygen saturation probe

## **Arterial Blood Gas (on 15L Non-Rebreather)**

**Name: Jenny Carr**

**DoB: 12/04/1995**

<b>pH</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>(7.35 - 7.45)</b>
<b>pO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>(10 - 13 kPa)</b>
<b>PCO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>(4.5 – 6.0 kPa)</b>
<b>HCO<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>20</b>	<b>(22 - 26 mEq/L)</b>
<b>BE</b>	<b>- 3.5</b>	<b>(2 to + 2)</b>
<b>Lactate</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>(&lt;2)</b>
<b>Glucose</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(6-12 mmol/L)</b>