

# OSCE as assessment method in a course regarding pharmacotherapy in self-care

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To throw yourself off a cliff...





# Faculty of Pharmacy Uppsala University

- BSc Programme in Pharmacy (3 yrs)
- MSc Programme in Pharmacy (5 yrs)
  
- Master Programme in Clinical Pharmacy (1 yr)
- Master Programme in Drug Management (2 yrs)
- Master Programme in Drug Discovery and Development (2 yrs)
- Master Programme in Pharmaceutical Modelling (2 yrs, English)



# Pharmacotherapy in self-care

- 9 credits, around 40 students
- Mandatory, Bachelor of Science Programme in Pharmacy, 4th semester
- Prior: traditional written exam, 5 hours

# Assessment

- Intended learning outcomes grouped in themes:
  1. Communication (ILO 10)
  2. Distinction self-care vs healthcare (ILO 1, 2)
  3. Recommendations; non-prescription medicines (ILO 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9)
  4. Recommendations; non-pharmacological advice (ILO 6)
  5. Overall impression
- Assessment criteria for each theme



UPPSALA  
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Distinction  
self-care vs  
healthcare

Recommen-  
dations

***Communication  
skills***

# More suitable form of assessment?



# OSCE - Objective Structured Clinical Examination

- Developed in the 70s
- Used in healthcare education
- Up to 20 stations, with or without interaction



# Our setup

- 3 stations (“pharmacies”) with different customers
- 2 teachers per station (assessor and customer)
- 15 minutes per station
  - Role play with customer
  - Follow-up questions

# Example of OSCE-criteria

## ILO

The student should be able to use relevant questions and thereby decide if self-care is appropriate

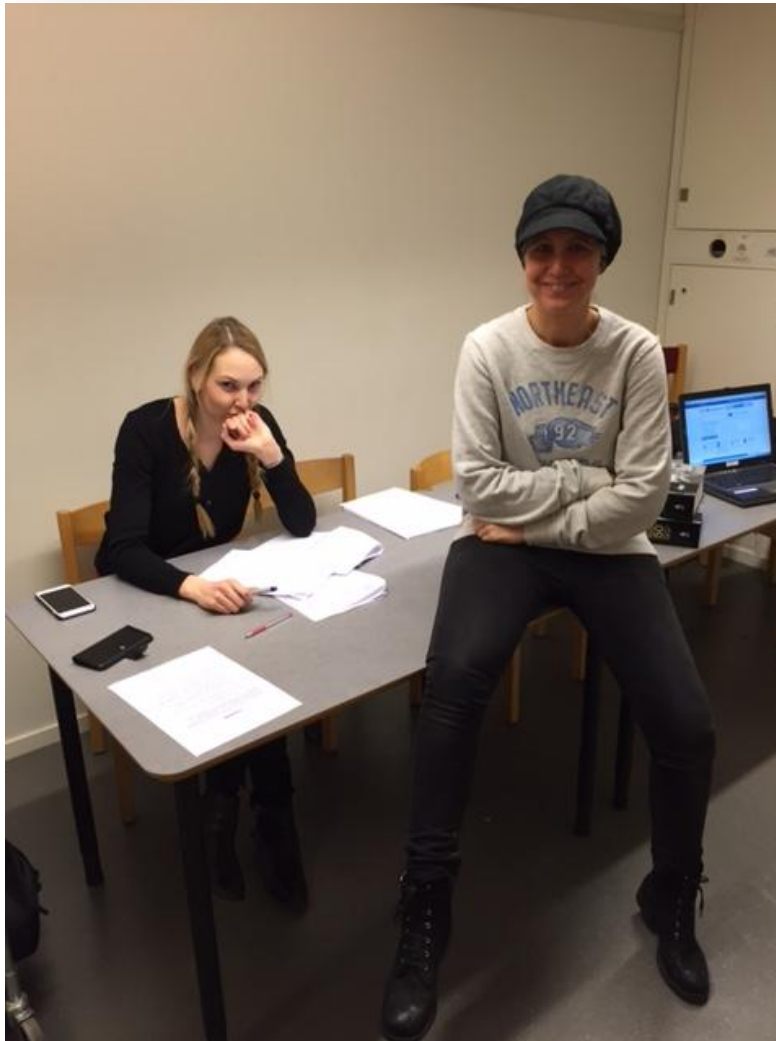
### Pass

- Presumed indication confirmed or rejected
- Main part of relevant questions for current indication asked
- At most a few irrelevant questions
- *Satisfactory motivation of indication and/or asked questions*

### Pass with distinction

- Presumed indication confirmed or rejected
- All relevant questions for current indication asked
- No irrelevant questions
- *Good motivation of indication and/or asked questions*

# Our "pharmacy"



# Results

Written exam, spring 15	OSCE, autumn 15	OSCE, spring 16	OSCE, autumn 16
22% F	29% F	22% F	24% F
54% P	58% P	69% P	62% P
24% PwD	13% PwD	9% PwD	14% PwD

# However...

Each semester, a couple of the students who failed did so solely based on inadequate communication skills

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
OSCE	OSCE	OSCE	Weighing of results	Review with students
				Reporting of results

## Student opinion 1

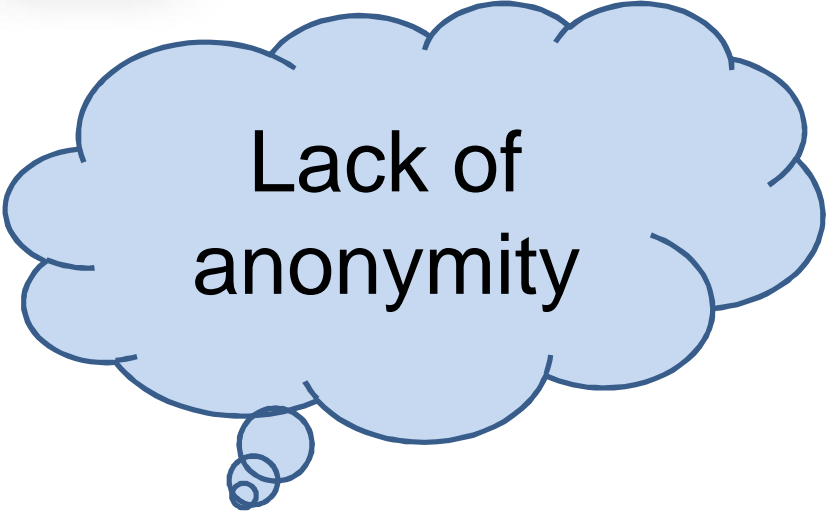
”I absolutely think that you should continue with an oral exam! I have worked in a pharmacy and feel that the exam is relevant and authentic”

## Student opinion 2

”It worked, but you felt like you forgot things once you were in the room and when you left you remembered everything you should have said.”



## Some reflections



Lack of  
anonymity



"Talk in the  
corridor"



Stress

# Conclusions

- Examines communication skills
- Clear connection to the future profession
- It can be worth it to try something new (i.e. throw yourselves off some cliffs...)!

# Finally

Thank you to my colleagues:

Ann-Marie Falk

Agneta Freijs

Lena Klarén

Maria Swartling

Camilla Eriksson

Thank you for your attention!

Questions? Comments?