



Faculty of Public Health

of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

Working to improve the public's health

"Mini OSPHE" Training Session

RFC June 2005

Instructions to Organiser

This exercise is aimed to give a taste of mini OSPHEs (5 minutes instead of the expected 10 minutes). First, divide the room into groups of three. It does not matter whether within the group of three people are Trainers, Trainees or others. (Alternatively three people could try them out together).

In each group a person is designated as:

- a) The Trainee undertaking the mini OSPHE.
- b) A "Role Player"
- b) An Observer

Three exercises should be undertaken, taking about three quarters of an hour in total and each person in the group should undertake each of the above roles in rotation.

Two brief scenarios are given and the group is asked to devise a third similar scenario from their own experience as the third exercise.

Five minutes of preparation time maximum is allowed for the "Role Player" and Trainee to consider the briefing. After this period the organiser will arrange a timed session for five minutes to start and stop. At the end of this the Observer should ask the participants how they thought it went and to give positive feedback and then discuss any areas for possible improvements using the four sections of OSPHE aims where relevant.

NB

In order to help make people comfortable with participating in the above the organiser can suggest that in each exercise the person being assessed can choose to role play a 'marginal' Trainee – ie just above or just below the standard they themselves would consider appropriate for someone who had passed Part 1 (Part A) MFPH in the past year. If they are worried about doing well they can always point out that they were role playing a Trainee below the line!

The following briefings can be distributed to the groups (or similar ones developed by the organiser).

Briefing 1

The Role Player plays the part of a head teacher. Recently the school has had a child with meningococcal disease strain 'B' who was admitted to hospital. The child was very unwell but is now doing reasonably well following treatment. The head teacher reports that parents are now demanding vaccinations and antibiotics for the whole school. The Trainee plays the part of a representative of the Public Health Department who is visiting the head teacher and helping them to deal appropriately with the situation.

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- b) A "Role Player"
- b) An Observer

Briefing 2

The Role Player plays the part of a newly appointed middle grade manager in local government. The following table shows some health indicators for the local population:

Cervical Screening uptake 40%	National average 80%
SMR 130	National Average 100
Immunisation rate for MMR 65%	National average 95%

The local government middle grade manager is having a meeting, as part of their induction programme for their new role, with the Trainee who is a representative of the local Public Health Department. The manager seems pleased that although two of the health indicators looks bad – at least one of them looks “good” as it is “better” than the national average. The Trainee needs to explain SMR in appropriate terms verbally so that the manager is left with a reasonable understanding of the situation.

In each group a person is designated as:

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- b) A “Role Player”
- b) An Observer

THE AIMS OF THE OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED PUBLIC HEALTH EXAM (OSPHE)

- **TO TEST THE ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE COMMUNICATION SKILLS APPROPRIATELY IN TYPICAL PUBLIC HEALTH SETTINGS. ie verbal, non-verbal (including body language), listening and comprehension communication skills.**
- **TO TEST THE ABILITY TO ASSIMILATE RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES & SETTINGS AND COMMUNICATE THIS FROM A PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE.**
- **TO TEST THE ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE APPROPRIATE REASONING, ANALYTICAL AND JUDGEMENT SKILLS, GIVING A BALANCED VIEW WITHIN PUBLIC HEALTH ROLE PLAY SETTINGS.**
- **TO TEST THE ABILITY TO HANDLE UNCERTAINTY, THE UNEXPECTED, CHALLENGE AND CONFLICT APPROPRIATELY.**

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