

## **M2 Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA) 2008 Exam Overview**

### **Exam Overview**

The M2 Clinical Comprehensive Assessment (CCA) will consist of a total of nine stations. Six stations will assess your physical exam skills, two stations will assess your history taking/communication skills, and one station will assess your verbal presentation skills.

In addition, you will also be required to complete a written examination. The written exam will consist of approximately sixty (60) multiple choice questions covering general principles of the physical exam, including basic physiology and pathophysiology relevant to the diagnosis of common clinical conditions covered during the CFM and CEP sessions. The exam is closed-book; therefore notes or textbooks may not be used. The written examination will be open and available on-line beginning Thursday, January 31 at 8:00 a.m. through Tuesday, February 5, 2008 ending at 12:00 am (midnight). It is **not** necessary to complete the written exam prior to taking the clinical exam component of the CCA.

### **Physical Exam Skills**

The physical exam stations will include the abdominal, cardiac, musculoskeletal, neurologic, and pulmonary exams.

The patients at these stations are volunteers, not standardized patients. They will not be grading you. However, you are expected to treat them with the respect due to anyone who is willing to undergo several dozen physical exams to help you with your education.

A faculty member will be present in the room and will score you based on your physical exam skills. You must describe what you are doing during each step of the exam in addition to your findings. You may speak to either the patient or the faculty (examples below). Since most of the faculty is not telepathic, if you do not say what you are doing, you might not get credit for it. The idea is **not** to have you elicit abnormal findings during the physical exam, but to assess your understanding of important physical exam skills and findings that have been taught during the Clinical Foundations of Medicine (CFM) and Clinical Educator Program (CEP) sessions.

After you complete the exam, the faculty member may provide you limited feedback on your exam performance as time permits, but will **not** give you your score.

### **Example Descriptions:**

#### **Talking to the patient:**

*“Now I’m going to see how big your liver is... It’s about 7 cm below your rib cage which is normal...”*

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### Talking to the faculty instructor:

*“Now I’m going to assess the liver span... It’s about 7 cm below the right costal margin which is normal...”*

### History Taking/Communication Skills

The history taking stations will assess your ability to take focused, but complete, medical histories from standardized patients and display effective communication skills (e.g. empathy, eye contact, etc.). The content of the interview should include eliciting a **relevant** history of present illness (HPI), past medical history (PMH), medications, family history, social history, and risk factors. Please note that this is **not** a complete history station and that you should tailor your questions to appropriately focus on questions/issues that are pertinent to the patient’s chief complaint. Also, the idea is **not** to find the diagnosis, but to ask relevant questions during a patient encounter that demonstrate your ability to effectively elicit a history and communicate with patients.

The standardized patient will score you separately on the content of your conversation and your communication skills. The overall communication score will be based on your communication skills scores from both history taking stations. It is therefore possible to pass the history taking station(s) based on content, but fail the communication skills section because of poor patient interviewing technique.

Students are permitted to use a blank, standard interview template and/or review of systems sheet (provided at the exam station) during the history portion of the exam. All notes must be left in the exam room following completion of the station.

### Verbal Patient Presentation Station

This station will assess your ability to organize a patient interview and present your findings verbally to a faculty physician. At this station you will be expected to review a patient intake sheet and view a five minute video of a patient describing his/her current medical concerns. You will then have five minutes to gather your thoughts prior to presenting your findings including relevant history of present illness, past medical history, medications, etc.) to a faculty physician during the remaining five minutes.

Students are permitted to use a blank piece of paper to take notes (provided at the exam station) and to refer to his/her notes during their presentation to the faculty. All notes must be left in the exam room following completion of the station.