

Using Tablets for OSCE Exams to Reduce Errors and Optimize Documentation

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Background:

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a form of performance-based testing used to measure candidates' clinical competence. Paper-based checklists are widely used for evaluation of the candidates as they go through a series of stations in which they e.g. treat standardized patients. Therefore a large amount of paper is needed and the results have to be summed over all stations manually. The International Consortium for Assessment Networks (ICAN) is a non-profit umbrella organization for assessment alliances with different interests and focuses. 48 schools, boards and councils in 6 countries actually using a common platform for preparation, exchange, implementation and evaluation of examinations: the ItemManagementSystem (IMS).

Summary of work:

To improve the workflow ICAN developed an app, which represents OSCE-stations (stored in IMS) on tablets. QR codes can be used to identify the right stations and the candidates. Several ways of entering comments about the student's judgment are supported: virtual keyboard, finger/pencil, predefined text phrases and voice-recording. After each evaluation a screenshot is automatically stored for neutral documentation. The results could be exported to IMS for analysis or printed via PDF.

Summary of results:

Several partners are using the app since 2012, reporting an easier, enhanced and smoother workflow. The results will be presented in this session.

Conclusions:

The usage of tablets eliminates the media gap between designing and performing the exam. It is greatly accepted and offers a transparent documentation which additionally gains more legal certainty.

Take-home message:

Using tablets for OSCE exams the time consumption, the amount of errors and paper can be highly reduced.