OSCE checklist for community bag technique

An OSCE checklist for community bag technique covers preparing and packing the bag, cleaning your hands at the door, using a clean surface, taking only what you need from the bag, and cleaning up so that infection does not travel between homes.

OSCE checklist for community bag technique: steps to practise

1. Check the visit plan and what the procedure needs. Pack the bag in an order that suits the procedure.
2. Keep clean and used items apart, so that the contents are not mixed.
3. At the home, greet the family, introduce yourself and explain the visit.
4. Choose a clean, dry surface for the bag, away from children and animals, and spread a clean layer under it if your method uses one.
5. Clean your hands, using soap and water or hand rub if there is no running water.
6. Open the bag and take out only what you need, placing it on the clean layer.
7. Do the procedure, keeping the bag closed as much as possible.
8. After the procedure, put used items in the labelled waste or the container for cleaning, not back in the clean part.
9. Clean your hands again, and clean the outside of the bag if your method says so.
10. Give health advice, record the visit and arrange the next one.
11. Wash and restock the bag for the next visit.

What candidates commonly forget

- Cleaning hands at the start and end.
- Keeping the inside of the bag clean.
- A clear surface for the bag, away from children and pets.

- Taking waste away or disposing of it safely.
- Respecting the family's home and beliefs.

Local policy comes first

This is our own practice checklist. Your college, hospital or country may do some steps differently. Where local policy and this list disagree, follow local policy. Bag contents, layout and the exact steps differ between textbooks and schools, especially between countries. Learn the version your course teaches. You can practise with an AI patient, and try one station free with no sign-up. See also the general OSCE nursing checklist.

Common questions

What is the aim of community bag technique?

To carry out a home visit procedure without spreading infection between homes, using a bag that stays clean.

Where do I place the bag?

On a clean, dry, safe surface, away from children and pets.

How do I clean my hands in a home with no running water?

Use alcohol hand rub if your policy allows it and your hands are not visibly dirty.

Sources

- WHO guidelines on hand hygiene in health care
- NICE CG139: Healthcare-associated infections in primary and community care
- WHO: Safe management of wastes from health-care activities
- Medbridge: bag technique in home health, citing McGoldrick in Home Healthcare Now

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.