OSCE checklist for family health assessment

An OSCE checklist for family health assessment covers introductions and consent, collecting family details, health and home conditions, immunisation and health practices, finding problems and agreeing a plan with the family.

OSCE checklist for family health assessment: steps to practise

1. Introduce yourself to the family, show identification, explain the purpose of the visit, explain confidentiality and ask for consent to collect information.
2. Record the family details: names, ages, relationships, education and occupation, and who makes health decisions.
3. Ask about income and resources, housing type, rooms, ventilation and lighting.
4. Check water supply, sanitation, waste disposal and home safety, such as risks for falls, burns and poisoning.
5. Ask about food habits, meals, cooking methods and food safety.
6. Ask about the health of each member, including long-term illness, disability, mental health and recent illness, and check any medicines are stored safely.
7. Ask about the immunisation status of children, antenatal and postnatal care, and family planning, asking sensitive questions privately and respectfully.
8. Ask about health practices, smoking, alcohol and use of health services.
9. Identify the family's health problems and strengths, and rank the problems with the family. If you have any concern that a child or adult is at risk of harm, tell your supervisor and follow your safeguarding policy.
10. Agree a plan with the family, give health education, refer anyone who needs medical care, record the assessment in the family folder and arrange follow-up.

What candidates commonly forget

- Not explaining the purpose of the visit and confidentiality

- Not recording each member
- Missing the environment, sanitation and home safety
- Not involving the family in setting priorities
- Not acting on a safeguarding concern
- Not planning follow-up

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.

Practise the hands-on steps with a classmate or in a skills lab, because an AI patient cannot watch your technique. You can practise the talking part with an AI patient, and try one station free with no sign-up. Next, try A home discharge plan with limited reading confidence. Back to the community health nursing OSCE page: community health nursing OSCE, or see the full OSCE checklist list.

Common questions

What is the OSCE checklist for family health assessment?

Introduce and get consent, record family details, home and environment, nutrition, health of each member, immunisation and practices, identify and rank problems, act on any safeguarding concern, plan with the family and record.

Why involve the family in ranking problems?

A plan the family agrees with is more likely to be carried out.

What is a family folder?

A record kept for the family with their details, assessment and follow-up, as used in many community health courses.

Sources

- WHO: Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
- Indian Nursing Council

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