OSCE stations for mental health nursing: medicine adherence

OSCE stations for mental health nursing: a mental health medicine adherence conversation explores the person's experience of treatment and supports a shared plan with the prescriber. Use this original practice checklist with your course guidance and supervised skills teaching.

Numbered practice steps

1. Confirm identity using the setting's required identifiers. Introduce yourself as a student, explain the task, obtain consent and perform hand hygiene before contact or equipment use.
2. Confirm the prescribed medicine list, allergies and who reviews treatment. Ask permission to discuss how the medicines fit into the person's day.
3. Use a neutral question about missed or changed doses. Explore side effects, beliefs, memory, supply, cost or difficulty attending appointments without blame.
4. Ask what benefit the person expected and whether they have noticed it. Check for troubling effects or worsening mental health that need prompt clinical review.
5. Discuss practical support such as a review appointment, accessible information or help with collecting prescriptions. Do not recommend stopping, restarting or changing doses yourself.
6. Agree what will be discussed with the prescriber and obtain appropriate consent to share. Document the person's priorities and who will follow up the concern.
7. Close by checking understanding, ensuring comfort and cleaning your hands and equipment as appropriate. Document findings and hand over any unresolved safety concern to the supervising practitioner.

Common omissions

The word non-compliant can hide a valid treatment concern. An organiser does not solve a side effect. A missed dose needs medicine-specific advice, so never suggest doubling the next dose.

Try an original practice task

Use an original scenario in which a person wants to stop tablets because of tiredness. Practise listening and arranging a review before suggesting an adherence aid.

These steps support learning, rather than authorising independent treatment. Follow your school's task and local policy; ask for help when a decision exceeds your competence.

Related nursing practice

Return to mental nursing OSCE practice or use the full checklist directory.

For a related communication exercise, try the medicine adherence practice station. Its task and clinical setting may differ from this checklist.

Common questions

Is this a school marking sheet?

No. This is an original learning checklist. Your school sets the task and assessment criteria.

Can I print this checklist?

Yes. Use the PDF download on this page for practice.

Sources

- NMC: The Code
- NICE CG76: medicines adherence

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