

CSA Grade descriptors

Key: Clear pass -- Pass -- Fail -- Clear fail

CP The candidate demonstrates an above-average level of competence, with a justifiable clinical approach that is fluent, appropriately focussed and technically proficient.

The candidate shows sensitivity, actively shares ideas and may empower the patient

P The candidate demonstrates an adequate level of competence, displaying a clinical approach that may not be fluent but is justifiable and technically proficient.

The candidate shows sensitivity and tries to involve the patient.

F The candidate fails to demonstrate adequate competence, with a clinical approach that is at times unsystematic or inconsistent with accepted practice. Technical proficiency may be of concern.

The patient is treated with sensitivity and respect but the doctor does not sufficiently facilitate or respond to the patient's contribution.

CF The candidate clearly fails to demonstrate competence, with clinical management that is incompatible with accepted practice or a problem-solving approach that is arbitrary or technically incompetent.

The patient is not treated with adequate attention, sensitivity or respect for their contribution.

Note: All three CSA domains must be assessed in order to make the final global judgement. The descriptors in italics address interpersonal skills. The rest of the text addresses the other two domains.

The standard for "competence" is at the level required for the doctor to be licensed for general practice.

Excellent:

Using a clinical method that may empower and motivate the patient, the candidate's clinical approach and interpersonal skills are clearly passing and show fluency, sophistication and time-efficiency. Performance is not necessarily perfect but is as good as could be achieved under exam conditions

Serious professional concerns:

The candidate's performance demonstrates serious deficiencies in professional behaviour and/or attitude that could, in the opinion of the examiner, place patients at risk of significant harm from decisions and actions that the doctor takes, or fails to take.

Note: if you tick this box it does not simply mean that you have serious concerns about the doctor's fitness to be licensed, but that you have serious concerns about their fitness to practise at all. If this is the case, your evidence will be considered, the matter investigated at local level and the appropriate action taken including if ultimately necessary, GMC referral.