THE MSUCOM COMLEX PE SIMULATION

The COMLEX PE Simulation is a mandatory formative assessment exercise designed to prepare you for the COMLEX PE Level II exam in Conshohocken, PA. As such, we have designed a series of four patient encounters (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE's)) to reflect the actual examination as much as possible. You should visit the NBOME website and become familiar with the rules and procedures that you will be required to comply with during actual exam at the NBOME testing center.

**Logistics:**

**Location:** Learning Assessment Center, Room A601 East Fee Hall.

**Signing up for the Simulation:** Registration information will be emailed to the class from the Learning Assessment Center (LAC) with the subject line: *Registration Email for the COM COMLEX PE Simulation Exam*. Students are to **register for only one date and time**. Each student will receive confirmation of his/her scheduled examination date via email no later than ten (10) working days following the close of registration.

Please contact Evita Gilbert at gilber10@msu.edu if you have any problems registering or you do not receive your schedule confirmation.

**Day of the Event:**
Morning session: You must arrive before 8:30 am; Session: 8:45 am – 12:15 pm.
Afternoon session: You must arrive before 12:15 pm; Session: 12:30 pm – 4:15 pm.
Scheduled times are strictly observed; failure to comply disrupts the exercise for everyone.

**WHAT TO BRING:**

- You **MUST PROVIDE AN ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION** (such as your MSU-issued Student ID or your driver’s license).
- You should arrive with your **stethoscope and professionally dressed** (NO SCRUBS, NO JEANS, NO SANDALS or OPEN TOED SHOES) in a **white lab coat that has your name displayed on it**.

**WHAT NOT TO BRING:**

- Students may not bring any personal items into the exam area--such as cell phones, PDA, notebooks, reference materials, backpacks, wrist watches and timing devices, etc. There are no lockers available and students bringing any of the restricted items will be asked to return them to their car.
The COMLEX PE SIMULATION Day

NOTE: Once the session has started, no late students will be allowed to enter the testing area. Allow extra time to for any contingencies that may occur during your commute so that you are prepared to begin the orientation session on time.

Upon arrival:
- You will be asked for your ID.
- You will get into your white lab coat and have your stethoscope available.
- Violations of these requirements, or late arrival, will result in your dismissal from the session.

The Session:
Students will view a brief orientation video prior to beginning the session. Once the session starts, except for an emergency situation, no one will be permitted to leave the exam area or have contact with others outside of the center.

During the four-hour session, candidates will rotate through a series of four (4) standardized patient encounters. For two of the encounters, you will assume the role of the examining physician and for the other two cases you will act as an observer.

Students will be assigned their role sequence at the end of the orientation meeting. When playing the role of the examining physician, you will have 14 minutes to evaluate and treat the patient (this includes the patient interview / history-taking, performing indicated physical examination techniques, counseling the patient, and "performing" indicated osteopathic manipulative treatment. Following each encounter, you will have nine (9) minutes to complete a written SOAP note detailing your clinical findings and assessment of the case.

Each patient case represents problems commonly encountered as a physician. Students are expected to incorporate osteopathic principles and practices into encounters with standardized patients where appropriate. This includes palpatory diagnosis, osteopathically-oriented history taking, documentation of osteopathic findings and treatment and osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT). OMT techniques should be performed gently on standardized patients and the total duration of the treatment should be brief.

Professionalism:
- Professional demeanor is expected throughout the exam.
- Treat standardized patients as you would real patients.
- Students are to refrain from personal interaction with any staff.
- This is a secure exam which means sharing of information about cases is prohibited under any format or circumstance. All students are to maintain confidentiality of the case content, procedures and any information provided in the session. Sharing information decreases the value of the experience for fellow students.
Debriefing:
You will receive several sources of feedback.

During the encounters, students are videotaped as well as observed live. Students’ history-taking and physical examination skills will be documented (via a checklist) by the standardized patient portraying the case immediately following the encounter. Doctor-patient communication, interpersonal skills, and professionalism will be evaluated by the standardized patient at that time. Observers will also fill out a checklist on the student’s history and physical taking skills.

During the COMLEX PE Examination (administered by the NBOME in PA), participants are scored based on their performance in the humanistic domain as well as the biomedical/biomechanical domain. Doctor-patient communication, interpersonal skills and professionalism are complex and multidimensional, and are best defined in the assessment context as specific observable behaviors and conduct throughout the entire examination. These include the student’s ability to elicit information, listen attentively, give information, show respectfulness, express empathy, and display professionalism. Although we do not assign grades for student performance during these sessions, we may identify students who we feel need remediation and recommend intervention before taking the COMLEX PE examination.

At the conclusion of the morning and afternoon sessions, all students will reconvene as a group. During this time, students will have an opportunity to review feedback from the standardized patient and the observer’s checklists. Faculty will provide debriefing on the cases by reviewing important aspects of the SOAP note and comment on the differential diagnoses for each patient case.

Before students leave for the day, all forms and notes will be collected. Under no circumstance may any scrap paper be removed from the LAC.

*Students will be promptly dismissed at the conclusion of the debriefing sessions and asked to leave the area expeditiously to minimize congestion in the LAC.*

If you have any questions prior to the exam, please contact Evita Gilbert at gilber10@msu.edu or 517-432-5423.