

# Near Me: The Evolution of the OSCE to a VOSCE

## How a shift from in person to video assessment retained the validity and safety of the consultation

### Introduction

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE's) are traditionally used to assess students' ability to take a history, communicate information, perform physical examination, diagnose, and problem solve. During Covid –19 OSCEs could not be undertaken and within the clinical assessment module for advanced practitioners were replaced with a virtual OSCE (VOSCE) as an innovative pedagogical approach utilising Near Me; a web-based system that enables clinicians to offer video calls to people and is the nationally approved platform for video consultations in Scotland.

### Methods

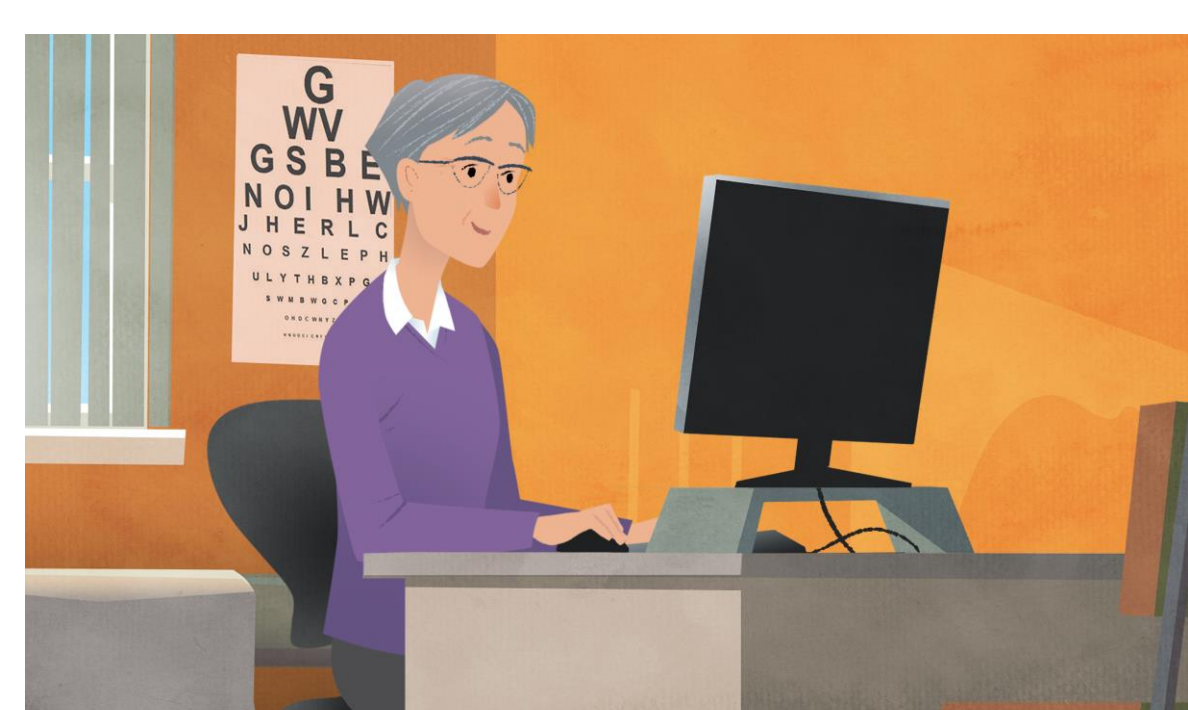
Students attended online learning activities and lectures on how to conduct safe and effective video consultations (Academic Department of Military General Practice and Primary Care 2020)

Video consultation workshops enabled the students to practice prior to the VOSCE using simulated reality based scenarios

Near Me was used to reflect clinical reality with OSCE scenarios modified utilising guidelines for effective video consultation

Grading templates were developed. Students were given a formative VOSCE with feedback followed by a summative VOSCE

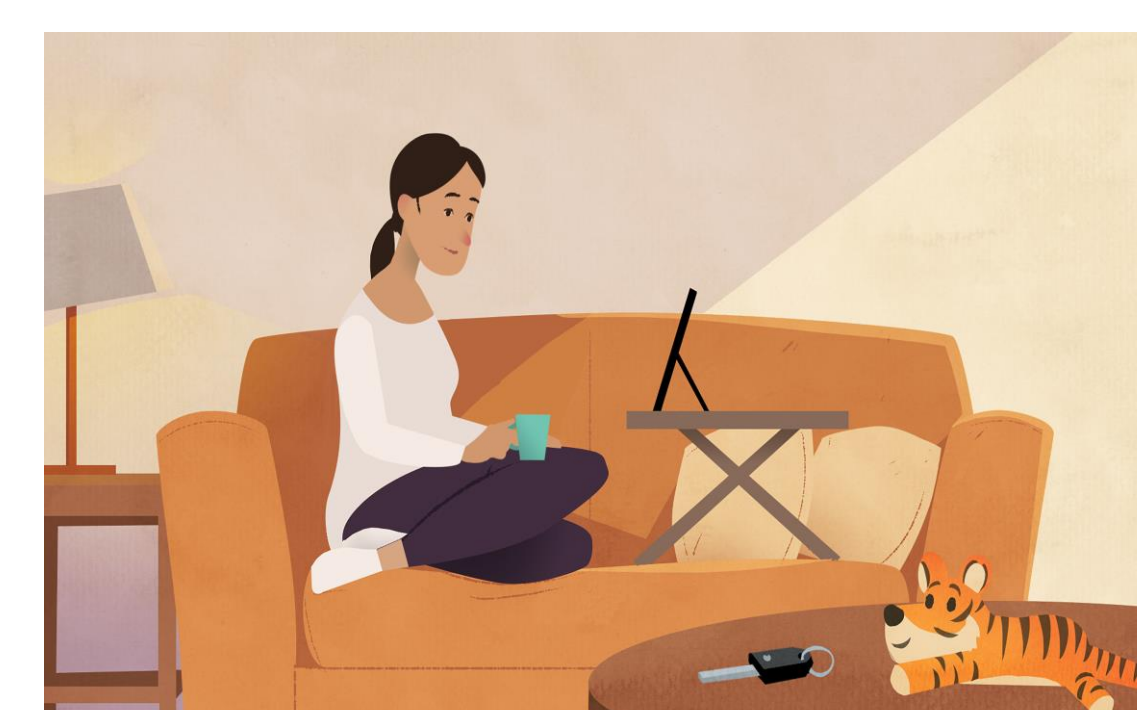
### The VOSCE comprised of 3 stations



1. History taking

2. Interpretative short cases (vignettes) - assessing critical thinking and decision making

3. Focused clinical examinations – on live volunteer subjects



Two examiners conducted the VOSCE, one playing a simulated patient the other marking student performance. Both examiners discussed the student performance which was quality assured by the presence of an external examiner.

### Results

Analysis demonstrated comparable results to the traditional in person OSCE but with an overall improvement in the pass rate in relation to history taking. Positive feedback was received from the external assessor on the quality of the VOSCE in terms of validity and patient safety plus alignment with contemporary practice.

### Conclusions

VOSCEs provide a novel alternative to OSCEs in the assessment of clinical assessment skills. With creativity and vision staff have accurately simulated video consultation for assessing and focusing critical thinking, problem solving and history taking skills. Due to the positive feedback identifying the clinical realism of utilising this platform it has now been adopted as the standard assessment method, a positive outcome post pandemic. VOSCEs could be argued as a more appropriate assessment strategy to assess history taking skills plus a useful choice to offer patients in contemporary clinical practice.