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Custody Examination Dying Declaration and Court Simulation

Practical 08 / Communication role-play

Aim

Recognise medical roles in custody assessment, simulated dying declaration and communicating evidence in court.

Principle

Clinical priority and independent objective documentation remain central. The authorised officer or clinician follows the applicable local legal and institutional procedure.

Materials and Requirements

- Fictional custody and court cases
- Approved role cards and de-identified note format
- Supervisor or examiner

Procedure

1. Identify authority, requested scope, consent and urgent clinical issues in the fictional case. Document privacy and any limits.
2. Verify the simulated referral, permitted purpose and independence of the medical role. Offer privacy where appropriate, assess urgent care needs and obtain and document consent in the scenario.
3. Record objective examination and patient account separately. Escalate safeguarding concerns through the designated pathway.

Continue with step 4 on the next page.

Procedure Continued

Custody Examination Dying Declaration and Court Simulation

4. Begin with an open history and confirm current symptoms and access to care. Record demeanour, vital findings and each represented injury separately from the person's reported account.
5. In a role-play, assess and record the patient's clinical ability to communicate as taught and refer the declaration process to the authorised route. Use nonleading questions and exact words where required.
6. Document alertness, orientation and ability to understand and communicate using the case prompts. Escalate the request to the designated authority and preserve the exact volunteered words according to the exercise.
7. Record all relevant times, who was present, communication aids and changes in clinical status. Mark any limitation that affects the reliability of the observed assessment.
8. Practise answering a court question within the stated expertise and identify what remains unknown.
9. In court simulation refer to the contemporaneous record. Distinguish observation and professional inference, answer only within scope and state which questions require other evidence.

Precautions

- Follow institutional and current legal guidance for real cases.
- Maintain neutrality. Never use leading statements to fill a record gap.

Observations and Interpretation

Custody Examination Dying Declaration and Court Simulation

Observations and Record

Item	What to record	What it tells you
Custody case	Identity, scope, findings and priority	Supports independent assessment
Declaration scenario	Date, clinical state and recorded statement	Preserves accurate attribution
Court response	Observation, inference and limitation	Stays within professional competence

Worked Example

In a simulation the person is difficult to rouse and cannot give coherent answers. Document the observed state and alert the clinical and authorised team rather than assuming capacity.

Result and Interpretation

Produce a fictional custody note and brief oral explanation that distinguish clinical facts and legal conclusions.

Viva Questions and Answers

Why quote a significant statement accurately?

It preserves what was said and avoids inserting the examiner's inference.

What if information is missing?

State the gap and avoid guessing.

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