

## Overview

In response to the suspension and subsequent discontinuation of the Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) exam by the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) program, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®) has established Pathways that will allow qualified medical students and graduates to meet the clinical and communication skills requirements for ECFMG Certification. These Pathways are intended only for individuals who, among other requirements:

- do not have a passing performance on USMLE Step 2 CS that is valid for ECFMG Certification, and
- are not certified by ECFMG, and
- plan to enter a U.S. program of graduate medical education (GME) in 2021 or 2022.

Detailed information on the Pathways is available on the [ECFMG website](#).

You have been asked to serve as a physician evaluator as part of an individual's application to meet the clinical and communication skills requirements for ECFMG Certification through [Pathway 6](#). To complete the evaluation, you must complete an ECFMG Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Mini-CEX). The Mini-CEX is a well-studied workplace-based assessment tool used to evaluate an individual's clinical skills in a variety of clinical settings.<sup>1</sup> Using ECFMG's Mini-CEX, you will evaluate this applicant's clinical skills during a real, in-person clinical patient encounter. You will then complete and submit the Mini-CEX evaluation on-line through ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#).

## Evaluator Eligibility

To serve as a physician evaluator for an applicant, you must:

- Currently hold a full, unrestricted license to practice medicine without supervision.
- Have held a full, unrestricted license to practice medicine without supervision for a minimum of five years.
- Be authorized to perform the Mini-CEX in the jurisdiction where the clinical encounter will take place.
- Give the applicant approval to share your name and e-mail address with ECFMG.
- Not be a relative of the applicant.
- Receive no compensation to evaluate the applicant.

For additional details, see [Criteria for Acceptable Physician Evaluators](#) on the ECFMG website.

## Evaluating the Applicant

To evaluate the applicant, select an appropriate clinical patient encounter (see Acceptable Patient Encounters below) and observe the applicant during the entire encounter. The applicant must perform a medical interview and an appropriate physical examination of the patient. At the completion of the encounter, the applicant should summarize the patient's clinical findings in a brief (less than five minutes) presentation that includes an appropriate differential diagnosis and a plan for the next steps for diagnosis and treatment.

After observing the encounter, log in to ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#) and complete your evaluation of the applicant's clinical skills as demonstrated during the clinical encounter. You will be asked to document the date on which the encounter took place, the health care facility/hospital at which the encounter took place, the setting of the encounter, and the patient's age and gender. You will then score the applicant on the four clinical skills components using the scoring criteria as outlined in the rubric found on the next page of this sample Mini-CEX form.

## Acceptable Patient Encounters

The patient encounter in which you observe the applicant must:

- Be a real, in-person clinical encounter. Telemedicine and standardized patient encounters will not be accepted.
- Take place in a formal clinical setting, such as an outpatient office, an urgent care clinic, an emergency room, or a hospital.
- Be primary care/general practice in nature and not subspecialized.
- Focus on the diagnosis and treatment of acute and/or chronic illnesses in a primary care setting.
- Be one for which the patient has granted permission to be observed.
- Occur after you have accepted the applicant's request to observe the encounter.

The encounter may be conducted in the language of the patient; however, the evaluation must be submitted in English.

For additional details, see [Criteria for Acceptable Patient Encounters](#) on the ECFMG website.

<sup>1</sup> Norcini JJ, Blank LL, Duffy FD, Fortna GS. The mini-CEX: a method for assessing clinical skills. Ann Intern Med. 2003 Mar 18;138(6):476-81. doi: 10.7326/0003-4819-138-6-200303180-00012. [PMID: 12639081](#).

**This sample Mini-CEX form is provided for reference only. DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM TO ECFMG.**  
**All Mini-CEX evaluations must be completed through ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#).**

### Instructions

Please provide the information requested below and evaluate the applicant's clinical skills as demonstrated during the clinical encounter on each of the four clinical skills components shown. Please score the applicant using the scale provided, with 1 being the lowest score and 9 being the highest. Choose only one score for each component.

Listed below each skill component are the skills expected of a medical school graduate who is ready to enter postgraduate training/graduate medical education (GME). If your score of the applicant's performance is below this level for any of the four components, you will be required to provide additional information about what you observed during the encounter that led to the score. Please complete and submit your evaluation through ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#).

Thank you for serving as a physician evaluator. For questions about ECFMG's Mini-CEX for Pathway 6, please contact [casemanager@ecfmg.org](mailto:casemanager@ecfmg.org).

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Encounter Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Physician Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility City: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting (Please choose one):

Outpatient  
 Inpatient  
 Emergency Department  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

	Medical school student beginning clinical training			Medical school graduate			Experienced doctor/practicing physician		
<b>Medical Interviewing Skills</b>									
Expectation at the level of medical school graduate:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Facilitates accurate collection of a patient's history	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
• Effectively uses questions/direction to obtain accurate information needed									
• History is organized and accurate									
<b>Physical Examination Skills</b>									
Expectation at the level of medical school graduate:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Follows efficient, logical sequence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
• Focuses physical exam on patient problem or presentation									
• Sensitive to patient's modesty and comfort									
<b>Professionalism/Communication Skills</b>									
Expectation at the level of medical school graduate:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Shows respect, compassion, and empathy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
• Establishes trust									
• Responds appropriately to non-verbal cues									
<b>Clinical Reasoning &amp; Judgment</b>									
Expectation at the level of medical school graduate:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Delivers efficient oral presentation of the patient's problems, including differential diagnoses and recommendations for next steps	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9