

Additional file 1

Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) checklists used to assess clinical competence in end-of-life care

The checklists reproduced below were developed by the authors on the basis of the content standards of the Japanese national nursing licensure examination and the Naming, Understanding, Respecting, Supporting, Exploring (NURSE) framework for responding to patient emotion. They were first used in our previous randomized controlled trial (Tamaki T, Inumaru A, Yokoi Y, Fujii M, Tomita M, Inoue Y, Kido M, Ohno Y, Tsujikawa M. The effectiveness of end-of-life care simulation in undergraduate nursing education: a randomized controlled trial. *Nurse Educ Today*. 2019;76:1–7) and were used unchanged in the present study to permit direct comparison of competence outcomes between the small-group and scalable simulation formats.

Two OSCE stations were administered. OSCE 1 assessed physical assessment skills (maximum 8 points) and OSCE 2 assessed psychological care skills (maximum 15 points). Each item was rated independently by two faculty evaluators who were blinded to whether a student had taken an active care role or an observer role during the simulation. Evaluators completed a calibration session before the assessment, in which they independently rated a common practice case and discussed discrepancies; where the independent ratings differed during the assessment itself, the evaluators discussed the item until consensus was reached.

The checklists were administered in Japanese. The English version presented here is a translation prepared for publication. The illustrative utterances shown for items 2–6 of OSCE 2 are English renderings of the Japanese exemplars supplied to evaluators; they were provided as examples of acceptable responses rather than as required wording, and students were not expected to reproduce them verbatim.

OSCE 1. Physical assessment skills

Learning objective: to assess pain and opioid-related adverse effects in a patient receiving palliative care at the end of life.

Assessment item	Rating options	Points
1. Assesses pain intensity using a 10-point numeric rating scale (NRS)	Achieved / Not achieved	2 / 0
2. Confirms the location of the pain	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
3. Confirms the type (quality) of the pain	Achieved / Not achieved	2 / 0
4. Observes for opioid-related adverse effects	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
Maximum total score		8

OSCE 2. Psychological care skills

Learning objective: to communicate therapeutically in response to the psychological distress of a patient at the end of life.

Assessment item	Rating options	Points
1. Conveys a willingness to hear about the patient's anxiety	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
2. Naming: Names the emotion the patient appears to be experiencing (e.g., "It sounds as though this is very painful for you."; "You are going through a truly difficult time right now.")	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
3. Understanding: Expresses understanding of the patient's experience (e.g., "If I were in your position, I might feel the same way."; "You have been struggling with this.")	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
4. Respecting: Acknowledges and respects the patient's efforts (e.g., "I can see how hard you have worked up to now."; "I understand that you are going through a very hard time.")	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
5. Supporting: Expresses a commitment to support the patient (e.g., "We will think together about ways to make you more comfortable.")	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
6. Exploring: Invites the patient to elaborate on their feelings (e.g., "Could you tell me more specifically how you are feeling?")	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
7. Tolerates silence without interrupting it	Achieved / Not achieved	1 / 0
8. Does not interrupt the patient or change the subject	Achieved / Partially achieved / Not achieved	2 / 1 / 0
Maximum total score		15

Note. Items 2–6 of OSCE 2 correspond to the five components of the NURSE framework. Item 7 carries a maximum of 1 point because tolerating silence was rated dichotomously; all other items carry a maximum of 2 points.