

OSCE

Candidate information

You are the duty consultant during a busy shift in ED. A 24 year old female (Rachel) has just died in Resusc after sustaining massive head injuries from an MVA. The retrieval doctors noted beer bottles and empty medication packets in the car at the scene. It appeared she had driven directly into a tree at high speed despite excellent driving conditions.

At the time, she was attempting to outrun the Police, who had tried to pull her over for a breath test after she had been seen driving erratically.

The Registrar has contacted the family and asked them to come in. You have been asked to see the family and deliver the news of their daughter's death.

Domain	%
Medical expertise	10
Prioritisation and decision making	
Communication	60
Teamwork and collaboration	
Leadership and management	
Health advocacy	30
Scholarship and teaching	
Professionalism	

MVA coroners case breaking bad news

Actor (Mother) information

You have been called to ED by a Registrar, who said your daughter Rachel had been involved in an accident. You have no further information regarding the accident, but are worried, as Rachel has been depressed recently after her marriage broke up.

You are Jewish, and your religion dictates that deceased persons must be interred with proper ceremony within 24 hours of death. When you find out that Rachel has died, you are therefore insistent that she be taken to the synagogue for death rituals to commence.

Marking:

Approach to breaking bad news:

- Delegate other roles so you are uninterrupted
- Have another staff member present
- Introduce yourself and confirm identity and relationship to deceased of all present
- Find out what they already know
- Summarise what has happened and state that the patient has died
- Do not use euphemisms
- Allow whatever form of grief reaction occurs the time and space needed
- Ask for and answer questions
- Allow viewing of body
- Use touch to comfort if appropriate
- Offer food and drink
- Give access to telephone
- Offer pastoral care referral

Coroners case referral needed

Coroners referral criteria (may vary state to state)

- Where there is any suspicion the death is not from natural causes

Additional material (may vary from state to state)

The term “reportable death” means a Western Australian death –

- that appears to have been unexpected, unnatural or violent or to have resulted, directly or indirectly, from injury;
- that occurs during an anaesthetic;
- that occurs as a result of an anaesthetic and is not due to natural causes;
- of a person who immediately before death was a person held in care
- that appears to have been caused or contributed to while the person was held in care;
- that appears to have been caused or contributed to by any action of a member of the Police Force;
- of a person whose identity is unknown;
- that occurs in Western Australia where the cause of death has not been certified under section 44 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1998;
- that occurred outside Western Australia where the cause of death is not certified to by a person who, under the law in force in that place, is a legally qualified medical practitioner.

	Mark
Approach to breaking bad news	2
Mentions need for Coroner's referral	2
Open, kind approach to mother	1
Addresses mother's concerns	1
Acknowledges dictates of faith but gently insists on Coroner's referral	2
Answers any questions honestly and kindly	1
Offers support services/social work/Rabbi	1