

OSCE

Candidate information

On a recent evening shift, the ED had a large influx of patients from a nearby music festival. The festival was riddled with drugs, and several patients with a wide range of ages were brought in over a period of two hours with various toxidromes. Toxidromes included anticholinergic, cholinergic, sympathomimetic, and alcohol overdoses.

This nearly led to a Mass Casualty Incident being called, but eventually was managed safely.

The head nurse has arranged a meeting with you to discuss the need for a protocol for such toxidromes.

Please discuss the pros and cons of a protocol for toxidromes, and answer any questions the head nurse asks.

Domain	%
Medical expertise	20
Prioritisation and decision making	
Communication	40
Teamwork and collaboration	
Leadership and management	
Health advocacy	
Scholarship and teaching	40
Professionalism	

Protocol pros and cons

Actor (head nurse) information

You have arranged a meeting with the head of ED to discuss the need for toxidrome protocols. Recently, the ED was nearly overwhelmed with a large number of patients from a music festival with anticholinergic, cholinergic, sympathomimetic, and alcohol overdoses. The situation was nearly called as a MCI.

You have been wondering if having protocols for management of these toxidromes would help.

You have asked the ED consultant to discuss the pros and cons of protocols in this context.

Prompts:

- What are the pros and cons of protocols?
- Would toxidrome protocols be useful for our ED?
- How is a protocol created?

Marking:

- What are the pros and cons of protocols?
 - Pros: structured approach to common problems, clear instructions, evidence based treatment, reduces risk of errors if diagnosis clear, guides junior staff. May enhance quality of care, reduced variation in practice, make medical practice more scientific.
 - Cons: reduces independent thought, risk of missed diagnoses/diagnostic blindness, if initial diagnosis wrong, may be harmful. Cook book medicine, reduced quality of care, deskilling.
- Would toxidrome protocols be useful for our ED?
 - Possibly – may reduce risk , but may also lead to harm if toxidrome misidentified.
 - Patients may have organic illness (diabetes, trauma, meningitis etc) and be mistreated
- How is a protocol created?
 - Committee/group, research, formulate need, investigate best practice, create, educate and disseminate, audit.....

	Mark
Discusses pros and cons of protocol – clearly, not vague statements	2
Explains (general terms OK) how protocol is created	2
Explores possibility of toxidrome protocols in ED	2
Addresses any concerns/questions by head nurse	1
Explains difficulty in maintaining protocols – education, revisions, new drugs etc	2
Approach to discussion – collegiate, non-paternalistic	1