

OSCE

Candidate information

You are the senior FACEM on shift. A 90 year old female has been brought in from her low-level nursing home with vomiting and decreased conscious state. A CT has shown a large subdural haematoma. Her past history includes mild dementia, end stage diabetes on dialysis, severe aortic stenosis, and two recent unprovoked pulmonary emboli, for which she is on warfarin with an INR of 3.5.

She has a not for resuscitation order in the nursing home documentation.

She is currently GCS 6/15 BP 210/90 HR 40

Neurosurgery were contacted and are unwilling to take her to theatre, a decision you feel is appropriate. Her INR has been reversed.

You have been advised that her two daughters have presented to ED and have made time to advise them of her current status and likely prognosis. One of her daughters is her medical Power of Attorney, but both have been involved in their mother's care.

Domain	%
Medical expertise	
Prioritisation and decision making	
Communication	20
Teamwork and collaboration	
Leadership and management	20
Health advocacy	30
Scholarship and teaching	
Professionalism	30

Actor (daughters) information

(This scenario requires ideally two actors playing the role of daughters/children)

Daughter 1:

- Medical power of attorney
- Adamant that her mother wouldn't want any invasive treatment and should be palliated
- Emotional, but firm on this decision
- Has been funding the nursing home for her mother

Daughter 2:

- Does not believe her mother would want palliation and is pushing for full measures
- Has a financial interest: there is an issue with her mother's will and if her mother dies without the will being corrected, this daughter will not inherit anything. This is a strong motivator for her stance on palliation.
- Is still upset that her sister palliated their father (appropriately) a few years ago, despite her sister being the more appropriate decision maker in the family.

This scenario could be played with both daughters fighting over the decision, with as much vigour as the actors like, or more passively, with tears and gentle arguments around the issue – it would depend on the candidate.

Marking:

	Mark
Identifies which daughter has power of attorney	2
Clearly states poor prognosis and appropriateness of palliation	2
Explores issues raised by daughters	1
Remains calm and keeps control of situation	1
Seeks support from social worker/other family/other FACEM/etc	2
Clearly identifies futility of full measures	1
Manner to daughters – open and non-judgemental	1