Effective Skills for Clinical Reasoning Assessment

Modified One-minute Preceptor

Get a commitment
- Allow for candidate to make a commitment
- Avoid prompting or suggesting a diagnosis or treatment plan at this point
  - “What do you think is happening here?”

Probe for supporting evidence
- Was this a “lucky guess” or a well thought-out evaluation?
- Explore thought processes
  - “Were there any other alternatives you considered?”
  - “What made you rule out condition X?”
- Questions that rely on rote memory DO NOT aid clinical reasoning (e.g. “What is the differential diagnosis for retrosternal chest pain?”)

Explore further understanding
- Try to find a common principle that can be applied to other situations
- Explore candidate’s ability to apply knowledge in different situation
  - “What if this person with a chronic cough was 60 years-old instead of 30?”
- Does not necessary apply to medical knowledge only
  - “What if this patient was not in agreement with your treatment plan?”
  - “What happens if this patient lives alone?”

Reinforce what was done right
- Positive feedback will encourage desirable behaviours

Correct mistakes
- Point out any errors