

**Test of Competence  
2021:  
OSCE Evidence Based  
Practice and Professional  
Values stations**

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## Purpose

The Test of Competence (ToC 21) OSCE assessment includes two silent written stations:

- Evidence Based Practice (EBP)
- Professional Values (PV)

These stations are designed to assess whether nurses, nursing associates and midwives can review, understand and interpret scientific or medical information from papers and journals, and demonstrate an understanding of how [The Code](#) relates to the professional behaviours it sets out.

Although there are public mark schemes available for both the EBP and PV stations, we advise that candidates should not try to rote learn these, as this is both a difficult task and does not allow them to develop the understanding and skills they need to appropriately assess a clinical scenario and practice effectively in the UK.

This document provides some guidance for trusts and candidates on PV and EBP stations and the understanding and skills that candidates need to develop.

## Evidence Based Practice stations

Candidates are presented with a summary of a scientific or medical journal article about a relevant aspect of nursing practice. They are given a scenario related to the article and are required to produce a summary of the findings and how these findings relate to aspects of the scenario.

Candidates are judged on their ability to:

- Read and understand summaries of scientific and medical articles and other literature.
- Analyse data and draw relevant conclusions.
- Relate patient specific scenarios to the evidence base presented in literature.
- Identify and provide relevant and appropriate advice which meets the specific needs of the patient identified in the scenario.

Candidates can best prepare by:

- Reviewing wide ranges of scientific and medical literature to summarise the findings.
- Discussing with colleagues or tutors, the findings of scientific journals or other publications and how these findings can be applied to patients with differing care needs.
- Developing critical thinking skills to help analyse information.
- Practicing writing summaries of advice for patients in a clear and concise manner.

### Professional Values stations

Candidates are presented with a brief scenario which and asks the candidate to identify what actions they would take, in line with [The Code](#).

Candidates are judged on their ability to:

- Identify aspects of [The Code](#) which are relevant to the scenario.
- Identify the appropriate actions to take to address the issues outlined in the scenario.
- Identify any consequences of not taking appropriate action.

Candidates can best prepare by:

- Being familiar with [The Code](#), particularly sections 16 and 20.
- Reading the NMC Guidance documents related to [The Code](#).
- Discussing with colleagues or tutors, how [The Code](#) could apply to different patient scenarios and what actions the candidate would be expected to take in accordance with this.
- Practicing reviewing patient scenarios and applying relevant aspects of [The Code](#) to provide a logical, structured summary of appropriate actions to take.