

## Clinical Assistant (Cl. A) Assessment

**Introduction:** Part I of the clinical assistant assessment was designed to determine if candidates possess the necessary baseline skills to be considered for employment as a clinical assistant. Part I is identical for all clinical areas whereas Part II is specific to each area. Part I is taken prior to employment as a clinical assistant, while Part II is taken within one year of employment.

The skills that are being tested in Part I include history taking, physical examination, communication skills (how candidates relate to patients) and documentation skills (can candidates clearly report their findings orally or in writing).

The assessment consists of 9 stations with standardized patients and an examiner in the room. At each station, you will have 15 minutes with the standardized patient to do a focused history and physical examination. A standardized patient is someone who has been trained to portray a medical problem, including elements of history, physical findings, affect, etc. much as would happen with a real patient. For the first part of the station (i.e. the first 15 minutes), you will interact with the standardized patient only and treat them as you would an actual patient. The standardized patient will be completing a rating scale which assesses your interpersonal skills. The examiner is present to collect other information about your encounter with the standardized patient but does not interact with you during this initial time.

After the encounter is complete, or after 15 minutes has elapsed, you will leave the room and go into a second room to meet with the examiner. You may have a discussion with the examiner about the specific patient you've just seen, ("pretend you're on the phone giving a report of your findings") or be asked related questions. Alternatively, you may be asked to write some notes about the encounter.

More detailed information will be sent to you once the Office of Continuing Medical Education receives your application form.

**Dates:** The clinical assistant assessment is held 2-3 times per year (based on available employment opportunities).

**Fees:** The fee for Part I is \$1500.00. A deposit of \$500.00 must accompany the application form. The cheque should be made payable to "The University of Manitoba". The balance is due one week prior to the assessment date. Candidates will not be allowed to sit the assessment if there are any fees outstanding.

**Withdrawal:** If a candidate withdraws a month or more prior to the assessment, the deposit will be refunded in full. If a candidate withdraws less than one month prior to the assessment, the deposit will not be refunded unless another candidate is available to take his or her place.

**ID:** You must bring photo ID, such as a driver's licence or passport, to the assessment.

**Results:** Results will be available 3 weeks after the assessment. The College of Physicians and Surgeons receives a list of successful candidates.

**Contact numbers:** The Office of Continuing Medical Education does not keep a registry of employment opportunities. For employment opportunities in Winnipeg, contact Mr. Chris Rhule of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority at 204 997 2404 (telephone); 204 334-4812 (facsimile).