



OSCE Checklist: Oropharyngeal Swab

Introduction		
1	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role	
2	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth	
3	Briefly explain what the procedure will involve using patient-friendly language	
4	Gain consent to proceed with performing an oropharyngeal swab	
5	Ask the patient if they have any pain before continuing with the clinical procedure	
6	Position the patient so that they are sitting comfortably on a chair or bed	
7	Wash your hands using alcohol gel. If your hands are visibly soiled, wash them with soap and water.	
8	Gather and prepare equipment	
Performing the oropharyngeal swab		
9	With the patient seated, ask them to open their mouth wide, stick their tongue out and say "ahhh"	
10	Depress the patient's tongue using a tongue depressor	
11	Insert the oropharyngeal swab, avoiding touching the teeth, tongue and other structures	
12	Collect the sample from the oropharyngeal wall, twisting the swab slowly and thoroughly to increase the likelihood of collecting an adequate sample	
13	Remove the oropharyngeal swab	
14	Insert the oropharyngeal swab into the tube of universal transport medium, ensuring that the swab tip is fully submerged into the liquid of the tube	
15	Snap off the shaft of the oropharyngeal swab at the break line, allowing the remaining shaft and swab tip to remain submerged in the tube's liquid	
16	Label the sample with the patient's name, date of birth and unique identification number	
17	Appropriately package the specimen for transport to the lab	
18	Arrange for transport of the specimen within an appropriate timeframe	
To complete the procedure...		
19	Explain to the patient that the procedure is now complete	
20	Thank the patient for their time	
21	Offer the patient paper towels to clean away any secretions	
22	Document the details of the procedure in the patient's notes	