OSCE Checklist: Elbow Examination

**Introduction**

1. Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate
2. Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role
3. Confirm the patient’s name and date of birth
4. Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language
5. Gain consent to proceed with the examination
6. Adequately expose the patient’s upper limbs
7. Position the patient standing facing you with their arms by their side in the anatomical position
8. Ask the patient if they have any pain before proceeding with the clinical examination

**Look**

9. Perform a brief general inspection of the patient, looking for clinical signs suggestive of underlying pathology
10. Inspect both upper limbs with the patient standing (anterior/lateral/posterior view)

**Feel**

11. Assess and compare elbow joint temperature
12. Palpate each of the elbow joints
13. Palpate the biceps tendon on each arm

**Move**

14. Assess active elbow flexion
15. Assess active elbow extension
16. Assess active pronation
17. Assess active supination
18. Repeat all of the above assessments passively

**Special tests**

19. Assess active wrist flexion against resistance
20. Assess active wrist extension against resistance

**To complete the examination...**

21. Explain to the patient that the examination is now finished
22. Thank the patient for their time
23. Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands
24. Summarise your findings
| 25 | Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. neurovascular examination of both upper limbs, examination of the joint above and below and further imaging) |