# OSCE Checklist: Paediatric Abdominal Examination

## Introduction

1. Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate
2. Introduce yourself to the parents and the child, including your name and role
3. Confirm the child’s name and date of birth
4. Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language
5. Gain consent from the parents/carers and/or child before proceeding

## General inspection

6. Observe the child in their environment (e.g. waiting room, hospital bed) and take note of their appearance and behaviour

## Hands

7. Inspect the hands for clinical signs relevant to the gastrointestinal system
8. Palpate the radial pulse, assessing the heart rate and rhythm (femoral pulse in babies)

## Face

9. Inspect the face and eyes for signs relevant to the gastrointestinal system (e.g. scleral icterus, oedema, pallor)
10. Inspect the mouth and throat for signs relevant to the gastrointestinal system (e.g. glossitis, angular stomatitis, aphthous ulceration)

## Neck

11. Palpate the supraclavicular fossa on each side, paying particular attention to Virchow’s node on the left for evidence of lymphadenopathy

## Close inspection of the abdomen

12. Inspect the child’s abdomen for signs suggestive of gastrointestinal pathology

## Examining the abdomen

13. Perform light palpation of the nine abdominal regions
14. Perform deep palpation of the nine abdominal regions
15. Perform liver palpation and percussion
16. Perform splenic palpation and percussion
17. Ballot the kidneys
18. Assess for shifting dullness
19. Auscultate bowel sounds

## Genital examination

20. Consider genital examination if relevant
### Rectal examination

21 Inspect the rectum if relevant (e.g. imperforate anus, anal skin tags)

### Lower limbs

22 Inspect for pedal oedema

### To complete the examination...

23 Explain to the child and parents that the examination is now finished

24 Ensure the child is re-dressed after the examination

25 Thank the child and parents for their time

26 Explain your findings to the parents

27 Ask if the parents and child (if appropriate) have any questions

28 Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands

29 Summarise your findings to the examiner

30 Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. vital signs, nutritional assessment, urinalysis)