



OSCE Checklist: Recording an ECG

Introduction	
1	Gather appropriate equipment
2	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate
3	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role
4	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth
5	Briefly explain what the procedure will involve using patient-friendly language
6	If the patient is a female, explain the need for a chaperone
7	Gain consent to proceed with the ECG recording
8	Adequately expose the patient's chest for the procedure (offer a blanket to allow exposure only when required). Exposure of the patient's lower legs and wrists is also necessary to apply the limb leads.
9	Ask the patient to lay on the clinical examination couch with the head of the couch at a 45° angle
10	Ask the patient if they have any pain before proceeding with the clinical procedure
Chest electrode and lead placement	
11	Apply V1 at the 4th intercostal space at the right sternal edge
12	Apply V2 at the 4th intercostal space at the left sternal edge
13	Apply V3 midway between the V2 and V4 electrodes
14	Apply V4 at the 5th intercostal space in the midclavicular line
15	Apply V5 at the left anterior axillary line at the same horizontal level as V4
16	Apply V6 at the left mid-axillary line at the same horizontal level as V4 and V5
Limb electrode and lead placement	
17	Apply the red lead on the ulnar styloid process of the right arm
18	Apply the yellow lead on the ulnar styloid process of the left arm
19	Apply the green lead on the medial or lateral malleolus of the left leg
20	Apply the black lead on the medial or lateral malleolus of the right leg
Recording the trace	
21	Turn on the ECG machine and ensure ECG paper has been loaded into the machine
22	Double-check all the electrodes are attached in the appropriate locations
23	Politely ask the patient to remain still and not talk during the recording as muscle activity can cause an artefact which obscures the ECG trace of myocardial activity
24	Press the appropriate button on the ECG machine to record the ECG trace. If the ECG trace is poor, double-check the connections to ensure there is good skin contact.

To complete the procedure...

25	Once an ECG trace has been obtained, switch off the ECG machine	
26	Detach the ECG leads from the electrodes and then remove the electrodes carefully, warning the patient this may feel uncomfortable	
27	Explain to the patient that the procedure is now finished	
28	Thank the patient for their time	
29	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
30	Label the ECG with the patient's details	
31	Document your findings in the patient's notes	

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