

Overview

The 2026 Pathways for ECFMG Certification allow qualified international medical students and graduates (IMGs) to meet the clinical and communication skills requirements for ECFMG Certification and to participate in the 2026 National Resident Matching Program[®] (NRMP[®]) Main Residency Match[®] (The Match[®]). [Detailed information on the Pathways](#) is available on the ECFMG website.

You have been asked to serve as a physician evaluator as part of an individual's application to [Pathway 6](#). To complete the evaluation, you must complete an ECFMG Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Mini-CEX). The Mini-CEX is a well-studied workplace-based assessment tool used to evaluate an individual's clinical skills in a variety of clinical settings.¹ Using ECFMG's Mini-CEX, you will evaluate this applicant's clinical skills during a real, in-person clinical patient encounter. You will then complete and submit the Mini-CEX evaluation on-line through ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#).

Evaluator Eligibility

To serve as a physician evaluator for an applicant, you must:

- Currently hold a full, unrestricted license to practice medicine without supervision in the jurisdiction where the encounter will take place.
- Have held a full, unrestricted license to practice medicine without supervision for a minimum of five years.
- Give the applicant approval to share your name and e-mail address with ECFMG.
- Not be a relative of the applicant.
- Receive no compensation to evaluate the applicant.

In addition, please note that you may evaluate no more than 10 applicants for the 2026 Pathways season. For additional details, see [Criteria for Acceptable Physician Evaluators](#) on the ECFMG website.

Evaluating the Applicant

In order to complete an evaluation for an applicant, the applicant must first invite you to do so through the on-line Pathways application, and you must accept the invitation through the [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#). You must have established an account in the portal in order to accept the invitation before the clinical encounter takes place. Full details are provided in the [Information for Physician Evaluators for Pathway 6](#).

To evaluate the applicant, select an appropriate clinical patient encounter (see Acceptable Clinical Encounters below) and observe the applicant during the entire encounter. The applicant must perform a medical interview and an appropriate physical examination of the patient. At the completion of the encounter, the applicant should summarize the patient's clinical findings in a brief (less than five minutes) presentation that includes an appropriate differential diagnosis and a plan for the next steps for diagnosis and treatment.

After observing the encounter, log in to ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#) and complete your evaluation of the applicant's clinical skills as demonstrated during the clinical encounter. You will be asked to document the date on which the encounter took place, the outpatient facility at which the encounter took place, the setting of the encounter, and the patient's age and gender. You will then score the applicant on the four clinical skills components using the scoring criteria as outlined in the rubric found on the next page of this sample Mini-CEX form.

Acceptable Clinical Encounters

The clinical encounter in which you observe the applicant must:

- Be a real, in-person clinical encounter. Telemedicine, virtual, and standardized patient encounters will not be accepted.
- Take place in a formal outpatient clinical setting, and the patient must be a registered outpatient.
- Take place in a country where the applicant is permitted to interview patients and perform physical exams on patients.
- Be primary care/general practice in nature and not subspecialized.
- Focus on the diagnosis and treatment of acute and/or chronic illnesses in a primary care setting.
- Be one for which the patient or, in the case of a pediatric visit, the patient's parent or guardian, has granted permission to be interviewed and examined.
- Be one in which the patient is not a relative of the applicant.
- Occur after you have accepted the applicant's request to observe the encounter.

The encounter may be conducted in the language of the patient; however, the evaluation must be submitted in English. For additional details, see [Criteria for Acceptable Clinical Encounters](#) on the ECFMG website.

¹ Norcini JJ, Blank LL, Duffy FD, Fortna GS. The mini-CEX: a method for assessing clinical skills. *Ann Intern Med.* 2003 Mar 18;138(6):476-81. doi: 10.7326/0003-4819-138-6-200303180-00012. [PMID: 12639081](#).

This sample Mini-CEX form is provided for reference only. **DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM TO ECFMG.**
All Mini-CEX evaluations must be completed through ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#).

Instructions

Please provide the information requested below and evaluate the applicant's clinical skills as demonstrated during the clinical encounter on each of the four clinical skills components shown. Listed below each component are the skills expected of an individual who performs at the level of a medical school graduate who is ready to enter postgraduate training/graduate medical education (GME). Please score the applicant using the scale provided, with 1 being the lowest score and 9 being the highest. Choose only one score for each component, and be sure to select the score **based on the applicant's skill level for each component as observed by you during the encounter, not based on the applicant's actual current training or experience level.** You will be required to provide additional information about what you observed during the encounter that led to the score. Please complete and submit your evaluation through ECFMG's [Clinical Skills Evaluation and Attestation Portal](#).

Thank you for serving as a physician evaluator. If you have any questions about the Mini-CEX, please contact casemanager@ecfm.org.

Name of Applicant: _____ Encounter Date: _____

Name of Physician Evaluator: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility City: _____

Facility Country: _____

Patient: Age: _____ Gender: _____

	Performs at the level of a medical school student beginning clinical experiences			Performs at the level of a medical school graduate			Performs at the level of an experienced doctor/practicing physician		
Medical Interviewing Skills <i>Expectation for an individual who performs like a medical school graduate:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates accurate collection of a patient's history Effectively uses questions/direction to obtain accurate information needed History is organized and accurate 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Physical Examination Skills <i>Expectation for an individual who performs like a medical school graduate:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows efficient, logical sequence Focuses physical exam on patient problem or presentation Sensitive to patient's modesty and comfort 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Professionalism/Communication Skills <i>Expectation for an individual who performs like a medical school graduate:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows respect, compassion, and empathy Establishes trust Responds appropriately to non-verbal cues 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Clinical Reasoning & Judgment <i>Expectation for an individual who performs like a medical school graduate:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivers efficient oral presentation of the patient's problems, including differential diagnoses and recommendations for next steps 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9