

## Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) Guidance

A DOPS is an assessment tool designed to evaluate the performance of a trainee in undertaking a practical procedure. The trainee should be given immediate feedback to identify strengths and areas for development. All workplace-based assessments are intended primarily to support learning so this feedback is very important

Assessors can be anyone with expertise in the procedure, including experienced nurses and allied health professionals as appropriate. Some curricula may have specific requirements for numbers of consultant assessments.

Not all elements need be assessed on each occasion. You may explore a trainee's related knowledge where you feel appropriate.

Please ensure that the patient is aware that the DOPS is being carried out.

This guidance relates to the generic DOPS form which can be used for any procedure. Some specialties have created more specific DOPS forms. These are available in the ePortfolio to trainees in the relevant specialties.

The form includes a rating of the level of independent practice the trainee has shown for this procedure, based on what has been observed. Note that this is the assessor's judgement based on what has been observed not an authorisation for the trainee to practise unsupervised in future.

### Descriptors of competencies demonstrated during DOPS:

<b>Demonstrates understanding of indications, relevant anatomy and technique</b>	Does the trainee know the relevant indications, anatomical landmarks, and techniques relevant to the procedure?
<b>Obtains informed consent</b>	Is there a clear explanation of the proposed procedure to the patient, with the patient given an opportunity to ask questions? Where informed consent is sought, is this documented appropriately?
<b>Demonstrates appropriate preparation pre-procedure</b>	
<b>Appropriate analgesia or safe sedation</b>	Does the trainee use adequate amounts of appropriate drugs to minimise patient discomfort? Is this titrated where appropriate?
<b>Technical ability</b>	Most pertinent to practical applications such as ultrasound and screening. Is there satisfactory hand/eye co-ordination?
<b>Aseptic technique</b>	The cleansing of hands and, where relevant, equipment before and after every physical patient episode is mandatory.
<b>Seeks help where appropriate</b>	Does the trainee recognise his/her limitations and request assistance when appropriate?
<b>Post procedure management</b>	
<b>Communication skills</b>	Is the trainee polite, and exhibits a sense of self within a team structure? Is he/she able to convey understanding to others?
<b>Consideration of patient/professionalism</b>	Responds to patients feelings, shows respect, compassion, empathy, establishes trust; attends to patient's needs of comfort, modesty, confidentiality of information.
<b>Overall ability to perform procedure</b>	