

Acute Care Assessment Tool (ACAT) Guidance

The ACAT is designed to assess and facilitate feedback on a doctor's performance during their practice on the Acute Medical Take. 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 any doctor with suitable experience - for trainees in higher specialty training this is likely to be consultants. Some curricula may have specific requirements for numbers of consultant assessments.

The process should be trainee-led (by identifying the take periods to be assessed and appropriate assessors). After the take the trainee's performance during the take period should be discussed.

Descriptors of competencies demonstrated during ACAT:

Clinical assessment	Quality of History and Examination to arrive at appropriate differential diagnoses
Medical record keeping	Quality of recording of patient encounters on the take, and including drug and fluid prescriptions
Investigations and referrals	Quality of a trainee's choice of investigations, and referrals over a take period
Management of critically ill patient	Quality of treatment given to critically ill patients encountered on the take (assessment, investigations, urgent treatment administered, involvement of appropriate colleagues including senior)
Time management	Prioritisation of cases and issues within the take, ensuring sickest patients seen first and the patient's most pressing issues are dealt with initially. Recognition of the quality of a colleague's initial clerking to inform how much further detail is needed. A full repeat clerking is not always needed by a more senior doctor.
Management of Take / Team working	Appropriate relationship with and involvement of other health professionals
Clinical leadership	Appropriate delegation and supervision of junior staff.
Handover	Quality of the handover of care of patients from the take to the relieving team. If patients have been transferred to a different area of care then this applies to the quality of the handover to the new team.
Overall Performance	What level was demonstrated by the trainee's performance in this take period?