



Page title (SEO): NMC OSCE Changes from 26 October 2026 | OSCEBOOST

## NEW STATIONS FROM 26 OCTOBER 2026

# The NMC OSCE is changing. Here's everything you need to know.

In September 2026 the NMC announced new OSCE stations for Adult, Mental Health and Paediatric Nursing. They apply to anyone sitting their first OSCE on or after Monday 26 October 2026. The exam format stays the same. The content you could meet does not.

### At a glance

- **26 October 2026:** New stations apply to first attempts from this date
- **15:** New silent written scenarios (8 Professional Values, 7 Evidence-Based Practice)
- **3:** Nursing fields affected (Adult, Mental Health, Paediatric)
- **10:** Stations in the exam, unchanged

**Button:** Book your OSCE preparation (link to tel:+447767437116)

## STEP ONE

### Does this update affect you?

It all depends on the date of your first OSCE attempt.

#### Not affected: first exam before 26 October 2026

Nothing changes. Keep preparing from the current materials. The new stations cannot appear in your exam.

#### Affected: first exam on or after 26 October 2026

You could meet any of the new stations for your field, alongside the existing ones. Prepare from the updated marking criteria.

#### Check with your centre: resit candidates

If you first sat before 26 October, your resit is expected to stay on the version you first sat. The NMC hasn't said this directly, so confirm when you book.

## WHAT'S NEW

### New stations by nursing field

Most of the update is in the two silent written stations: Professional Values (PV) and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP). Mental Health and Paediatric Nursing also get new APIE cases and clinical skills.

| Field         | Professional Values                                                           | Evidence-Based Practice | APIE            | Clinical skills |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Adult Nursing | Self-medication from ward stock<br>Unsafe staffing levels<br>Use of bed rails | None this round         | None this round | None this round |

| Field                        | Professional Values                                                                                       | Evidence-Based Practice                                                                                                                                          | APIE                                               | Clinical skills                                                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mental Health Nursing</b> | Information sharing<br>Racism in mental health care<br>Missed information in PICU<br>Team Christmas party | Improving the physical health of a mental health patient<br>Patients' sleep on the ward<br>Physical restraint in mental health care<br>Smoking and schizophrenia | Psychosis<br>Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) | Medication adherence<br>Mental state examination (MSE)<br>Non-suicidal self-injury |
| <b>Paediatric Nursing</b>    | Hand washing                                                                                              | Donor human milk<br>O2 saturations<br>Parental presence                                                                                                          | Allergic reaction                                  | Aseptic non-touch technique (ANTT)<br>Medication via nasogastric tube (NGT)        |

The new Professional Values scenarios test the same things as the current ones: professional responsibility, accountability, patient safety, communication and conduct. In every one, you need to recognise the concern, use your judgement, escalate through the right channel and document accurately. If you have already practised the current PV scenarios, you are testing the same judgement in new settings.

For Mental Health candidates this is the biggest change. APIE is four linked stations following one patient, so a new psychosis or PTSD case changes the backbone of the exam. The new mental state examination and non-suicidal self-injury stations are marked as closely as any physical skill.

### THE BIGGER PICTURE

## Two rounds of changes in 2026

### Round 1, from 23 February 2026: Adult Nursing

One new APIE case (suspected DVT), two clinical skills, two Professional Values and three Evidence-Based Practice scenarios.

### Round 2, from 26 October 2026: Adult, Mental Health and Paediatric

8 PV and 7 EBP scenarios across the three fields, plus new APIE cases and clinical skills for Mental Health and Paediatric Nursing.

Both rounds add to the station bank without changing the structure of the exam. The NMC refreshes the bank so the OSCE stays current and harder to predict, and more updates are likely.

### GOOD TO KNOW

## What doesn't change

- **Same 10-station format:** 4 linked APIE stations, 4 clinical skills in two pairs, and 2 silent written stations for Professional Values and Evidence-Based Practice.
- **Same marking principles:** Safety and correct process, critical steps you must complete to pass, one assessor and the same timings.
- **Same skills decide the result:** Read the scenario properly, put safety first, communicate and document as you go, and manage your time.

### YOUR PLAN

## How to prepare if your exam is after 26 October

1. **Get the updated marking criteria.** Download the current version for your field from the NMC. Forwarded PDFs are often the old version.
2. **Know what's new for your field.** Adult: 3 PV, 4 EBP, 2 APIE, 3 skills. Paediatric: 1 PV, 3 EBP, 1 APIE, 2 skills.
3. **Keep revising the existing stations.** The new stations are additions, not replacements.
4. **Practise realistic scenarios.** Work through each new station out loud, the way you will in the exam.
5. **Practise your communication and timing.** Talk to the patient, escalate clearly and finish each station within the time.
6. **Get feedback and fix your mistakes.** Perform in front of someone who can mark you against the criteria and tell you what to change.

#### PREPARE WITH OSCEBOOST

### Practise in front of a tutor, not just on paper

- Practicals in small groups of up to 4 candidates, so everyone gets individual attention
- Perform each skill in front of your tutor and get written feedback
- Personalised one-to-one coaching
- Model station videos and 24/7 query support
- Affordable rates with instalment options

### OSCE practicals: £500, including food and accommodation

#### FAQS

### Your questions answered

#### Will the new stations be in my exam?

Only if your first OSCE attempt is on or after Monday 26 October 2026. If your first attempt is before then, you will sit the current version and the new stations cannot come up.

#### What exactly changes for adult nursing?

Three new Professional Values scenarios: self-medication from ward stock, unsafe staffing levels and use of bed rails. There are no new adult APIE cases, clinical skills or Evidence-Based Practice scenarios in this round.

#### I'm resitting. Do I need to learn the new stations?

The NMC links the change to your first attempt, and past updates kept resit candidates on the version they first sat. So if you first sat before 26 October, your resit should use the current materials. The announcement doesn't say this directly, so confirm with your test centre when you book.

#### Has the marking changed?

No. It is still 10 stations, marked for safety and correct process, with critical steps you must complete, one assessor and the same timings. The marking criteria documents have been updated to include the new stations, so make sure you have the latest version for your field.

#### Are the old stations being removed?

No. The new stations are added to the existing bank, so everything you have already practised can still come up.

#### Will there be more updates after this?

Very likely. 2026 has already had two rounds (February and October). The NMC refreshes the station bank from time to time, while keeping the exam structure the same.

## CONTACT

**Call us to book your place**

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*This page is general information based on the NMC's September 2026 announcement, reviewed September 2026. Station names describe categories, not exam content. The NMC and its approved test centres set the OSCE content, dates, resit arrangements and marking criteria, and these can change. Always check which version applies to your exam date with the NMC and your test centre. OSCEBOOST LTD.*