

Abstract of Symposium:

The Certification System for Standardized Patients Prompted by the Official Implementation of Common Achievement Tests

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In the educational curricula of medical schools in Japan, there are nationwide standardized exams called the Common Achievement Tests, both before and after clinical clerkship. These exams are administered by the Common Achievement Tests Organization (CATO). The Common Achievement Tests have been implemented since 2005, and with the revision of the Medical Practitioners Act in 2023, they were officially recognized as public examinations.

Among the components of these examinations, the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is conducted. Standardized Patients (SPs) may be trained by the universities themselves, dispatched by external organizations, or assigned from non-medical staff members.

In response to the public status of the Common Achievement Tests, a certification system has been established to ensure the quality of both exam assessors and SPs. The certification of individual SPs begins with a simulated OSCE, in which CATO committee members role-play as examinees to assess their performance. General knowledge is also evaluated through a written exam. Those who pass these assessments are designated as certified Standardized Patients. They later participate in Pre-CC OSCEs held at each university, where their performance is evaluated through video recordings of their sessions. Currently, there are 903 certified Standardized Patients and 55 certified training organizations.