



Instructions for Judges—Preliminary Round

As a judge of the preliminary round of the Patient Counseling Competition, you will be responsible for screening the videotapes of all participants and determining which participants will be selected to participate in the final round of the competition. The evaluations of all judges will be averaged together to determine the ten highest rated participants.

Providing fair, impartial, and efficient judgments is a difficult task. Some judges tend to be too harsh (perhaps forgetting that they are evaluating students) while others tend to be too lenient. Some judges spend hours viewing and reviewing the tapes while others have finished their evaluations before the tape has ended. Regardless of the specific issue, the outcome often is an evaluation that is unfair to the participant nor the judge.

In an effort to minimize some of these problems, the following instructions should be read carefully and referred to if difficulties arise during the judging of participants:

1. Before viewing any tapes, make sure you have a clear understanding of the two evaluation criteria. You will be judging the participants on both their professional competence and their communication ability. In other words, you are to assess what they say and how they say it.
2. When you judge each participant, you will have to make two separate evaluations—one for professional competence and one for communication ability. In each category you can rate the participant between 0 and 10

points. A rating of 9 or 10 should be reserved for contestants who are clearly superior while a 1 or 2 rating should be given to participants who are consistently inadequate. A rating of 5 should be given for an average performance in either category.

3. With this understanding in mind, it would now be useful to view two or three tapes, not to judge them, but to get a general sense of the level of the participants' abilities.
4. You should have before you the following information:
(a) a list of the participants, (b) the prescriptions and patient profiles used by each participant, (c) copies of an appropriate drug information resource, and (d) evaluation forms.
5. It is recommended that you view the entire counseling session (five minutes) before evaluating the participant. For some judges it is helpful to review selected segments before making their final judgments.
6. It should be remembered that this round is only a qualifying competition. Your judgments will be used to determine which group of participants will compete in the final round, not to distinguish the exact finishing order. In most cases your instinct will provide the best basis for your final evaluation.