

OSCE Checklist: The Cardiovascular Examination

Introduction	
Introduce yourself	
Wash hands	
Briefly explain to the patient what the examination involves	
General Inspection	
Evidence of distress or breathlessness	
The Hands and Arms	
Nails and finger tips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clubbing - Peripheral stigmata of infective endocarditis - Tar staining 	
Capillary refill time	
Radial pulse	
The Neck and Face	
Carotid pulse	
Assess the Jugular Venous Pressure	
Inspect the eyes and conjunctivae	
Inspect the mouth and cheeks	
The Precordium	
General inspection of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scars or skin changes - Chest wall deformities - Obvious pacemaker scar 	
Palpate for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apex beat - Heaves and thrills 	
Auscultate the heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aortic valve - Pulmonary valve - Tricuspid valve - Mitral valve 	
Accentuate the murmurs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen over axilla (MR) - Roll patient to left, listen to apex with bell (MS) - Listen to base of the neck (AS) 	

- Lean patient forward, listen over left sternal edge (AR)	
Auscultate the carotids	
Completing the Examination	
Auscultate the lung bases	
Assess for sacral oedema	
Assess for peripheral oedema	
Completing the Examination	
Thank the patient and allow them to re-dress	
To complete the examination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capillary blood glucose measurement - Peripheral vascular examination - Urine dipstick - Fundoscopy 	