Oral Examination in Communication – Example Scenario

There will be a fifteen minute assessment of a candidate’s ability to communicate aspects of orthodontic care and management to a simulated patient or parent as specified in the Learning Outcomes. You will be given clear instructions on a scenario to be explained to the simulated patient or parent. You should be able to explain clearly the procedure or process, to defend the treatment and demonstrate an evidence base for your explanations. Candidates will be assessed on the content of information as well as their empathy and ability to communicate clearly.

Candidates will be given the scenario to read for 5 minutes before going into the examination. They will then spend 10 minutes with the simulated patient / parent being observed by the examiners.

Scenario:

You are fitting a removable appliance to expand the upper arch for this 12 year old patient, with a unilateral cross bite and mandibular displacement. Explain the instructions for wearing the appliance to the patient, together with any precautions and advice you would normally give.

Answer to include:

- hours of wear
- when to remove the appliance
- possible problems (taking out at night, speech, rubbing, aching teeth, difficulty adapting to the appliance, what to do if it breaks etc.)
- expected progress
- mode of action
- activation of the appliance - turning the screw - how often
- care of the appliance

Actor prompts:

- How long will my treatment take?
- Do I have to wear it for 24 hours straight away?
- Will it affect my speech?
- Can I play my trumpet with it in?
- Should I wear it for sport and swimming at school?
- Are there any alternative treatments?
- Why can’t I just wear it in bed at night like my friend does?
- Will my gum shield still fit when my jaw is expanding?