

# Ear, Nose and Throat clinical skills for *post-registration foundation pharmacists*: a simulated introduction

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Fig. 2: EarSi Otoscopy Simulator from Haag-Streit

‘The simulator was helpful as this allowed supervisors [those delivering teaching] to **feedback** on my *examination technique*’

- Attendee

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's post-registration foundation pharmacy curriculum<sup>1</sup> highlights core clinical assessment skills which must be evidenced as part of the credentialing process.

Core skills include assessment of the throat and ear (with otoscopy). *We designed a 2-hour practical session to introduce key learning, practical techniques and simulator-aided assessment to evidence this.*

## What we did

We delivered two repeated 2-hour sessions in January 2026

- Offered via email to all post registration foundation pharmacists completing their portfolio in NHS Tayside.
- Teaching covered the following ear, nose and throat (ENT) topics, structured as per Fig.1:

Essential Anatomy	Head & Neck Exam
Pathophysiology	Oral Exam
Management	Otoscopy

- Examination was carried out on peers, otoscope was also carried out on the EarSi digital simulator (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3)
- We carried out optional, anonymous assessment via a 7-item online survey (Forms, Microsoft)

Two ENT-based doctors delivered teaching to 8 pharmacists across our programme, with 7 completing the survey (RR: 87.5%). **All respondents (100%, n=7/7) reported an increase in self-reported confidence** in carrying out and systematically reporting findings from **otoscopy**.

Pre-teaching, all attendees reported their confidence in otoscopy was 'neutral' or below, decreasing to just 14.3% (n=1/7) following teaching. **This improvement was statistically significant (p<0.0047, Fisher Exact test).**

All respondents reported the otoscopy simulator was 'very useful.'



Fig. 3: The EarSi Otoscopy Simulator in use

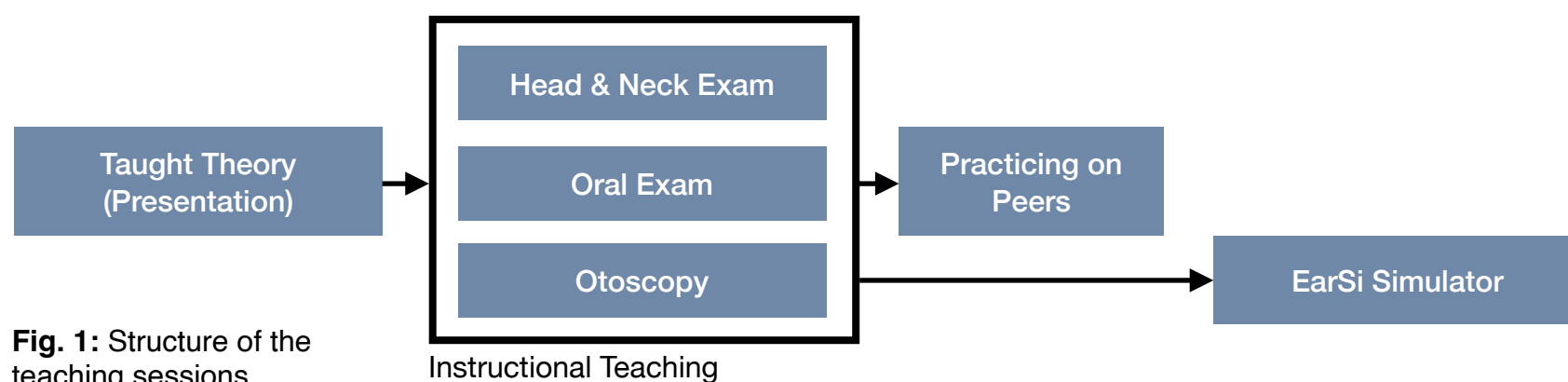


Fig. 1: Structure of the teaching sessions

Our evaluation highlights the **value of targeted, practical teaching** of clinical skills supported by simulation and inter-professional education (IPE).