

# Branching Confidence: Building Clinical Decision-Making Skills in Early-Career Clinicians Using Gamification

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## Background

Clinical decision-making is a core competency in medical education, yet many junior clinicians report feeling underprepared when transitioning from theory to practice. While high-fidelity simulations and case-based learning are effective, they can be resource-intensive and inaccessible in some settings. This project explores a simple, scalable alternative: using Microsoft Forms to create branching clinical scenarios that mimic real-world decision points.

## Tool Generation

The decision tool was developed using Microsoft Forms. Each form presents a clinical vignette (e.g., a patient presenting with chest pain), followed by multiple-choice options. Each choice leads to a different outcome or further question, simulating the consequences of clinical decisions. Feedback is embedded at each step to reinforce correct learning and foster confidence.

“This tool forced me to start committing to decisions in a safe, and low risk setting. It really pushed me to start thinking as a decision maker!”

“A really fun way to test knowledge and my clinical decision making, was great to do independently, felt way less pressure!”

“Some consequences of the decisions were ones I had not considered and forced me to consider the wider implications of snap decisions – so helpful!”

## Results and Conclusion

The tool was piloted with 20 final-year medical students during a clinical reasoning workshop. Student feedback is seen above.

Enablers: Familiarity with Microsoft Forms, ease of sharing via institutional platforms, and low technical barriers.

Barriers: Limited customisation options and it is a time-intensive development.

By developing familiarity with existing, low-barrier technology, educators can create meaningful learning experiences that build clinical confidence and decision-making skills. This project highlights the potential of everyday tools to make a big impact in medical education.

### References

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