Suitable cases on an individual basis. A particular case due to a medical condition. SPs are carefully matched with the portrayal of a particular case; sometimes an SP is excluded from portraying a history. Sometimes an SP has a medical condition that does not affect the patient's health.

Can I still be an SP?

I've had a couple of health problems in the past.

Do I need to know a lot about medicine?

No. We would teach you what you need to know. We actually prefer people who have not had medical training, and we do not normally hire medical professionals, nor do we hire medical students or graduates who may themselves be required to take the examination in the future.

How much does the job pay?

Currently, starting pay for training is $16 per hour. Once you have successfully completed the full training and are scheduled as an "Approved for Live" SP, your supervisor will raise your pay to the current rate of $18.50 per hour.

I'm still interested. What do I do next?

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®) collaborates with the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®), one of the parent organizations of the USMLE, in the development and administration of Step 2 CS. Step 2 CS is administered at regional Clinical Skills Evaluation Collaboration (CSEC) centers. Currently, there are test centers in Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. As part of its collaboration with NBME, ECFMG hires and trains SPs for the exam. In addition to Step 2 CS, SPs may also be involved with pilot examinations involving new technology or new client exams.

If you have read and understood the information in this brochure and are interested in applying for a position as a standardized patient, please visit the "Apply Now" button to apply.

Thank you for your interest in our program.
Who are the examinees?
Examinees are typically medical students and graduates who want to become
doctors or fellows in U.S. programs of graduate medical education or training.
Doctors enter these advanced training programs after graduating from medical
school. The examinees we test come from medical schools in the United States
and other countries. As an SP, you may also encounter experienced U.S.
doctors who conduct research for the exam. The examinees have varying
levels of experience. Some may be inexperienced in performing physical
examinations, and some may be very proficient.

What types of physical examinations are done?
They are common examinations that you might have as a real patient in a
doctor’s office. For example, examinees may listen to your heart and lungs with
a stethoscope; press on your abdomen, looking for tenderness or swelling;
look into your eyes, ears, and throat; take your blood pressure; assess your
muscle strength; check your reflexes; or check your pulses. Examinations
that are NOT permitted are female breast examinations, rectal examinations,
genital examinations (including “pelvic” examinations), and corded reflex
tests. Examinations are told that these examinations are not allowed. None of
the examinations involve taking blood or other samples. SPs are never given any
drugs.

Will I need to get undressed?
Yes. SPs wear hospital gowns so that the examinees can perform physical
examinations. They wear underwear underneath the gown. In some cases,
the examinees may check pulses underneath the patient’s underwear, but
underwear does not need to be removed. Female SPs may be asked to loosen or
move their bras for some examinations, such as listening to the heart, and they
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