

Your Student's First Day in Clinic

1. Review your student's Pre-Clerkship Survey and Individualized Learning Plan together.
2. Orient your student to the clinic setting, schedule, important people, types of patients and services offered on-site.
3. Orient your student to your working relationship, including:
 - a. Expectations around note writing
 - b. Expectations for how many/which patients they will be seeing, how long they should spend in the room with patients and how you would like them to present (i.e. in front of patient or before going in).
 - c. Expectations around physical exam, counseling patients, discussions with patients and follow up of lab/imaging results/consults.
 - d. Please describe and discuss your style of supervision and teaching.
 - Will you teach in front of the patient?
 - Will you observe your student during patient visits? How often will they observe you?
 - Will you plan to discuss a case in its entirety during the patient's visit or will there be a time for teaching at the end of the day?
 - How should they handle a situation if a patient becomes too complex or time consuming?
 - When will time be set aside for feedback/checking in to check if plan is working and both of your expectations are being met?

Role of the Preceptor

Precepting medical students takes time, patience, and skill at any time. Precepting students weekly for nine months presents special challenges and rewards. Over time, you will observe your students gain competence and confidence in their clinical skills, watch them form attachments to your patients, and perhaps help them make decisions that will affect their lives and careers. There are several parallels between teaching and clinical care that may help you. First, both students and patients need your help; you can apply your diagnostic and management skills to teaching. Also, just as you follow patients over time, let time be a factor in teaching, guiding, mentoring, and evaluating your student. These students will develop into doctors and your colleagues. We hope that the following tips will assist you in your next year of teaching.

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Primary Care Clerkship Faculty and Student Handbook*