

Family Medicine-Undergraduate corner Evaluations

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Evaluations serve as an interesting end to the Family Medicine clerkship rotation. It is at this time that you give to students information that allows them to understand exactly how they did during the 4 four weeks they spent with you as clerks.

However, evaluating is a process that occurs not just at the end of the rotation but needs to start from the moment that the student enters the clerkship.

Here are some thoughts on “evaluating” during a Family Medicine rotation:

- All clerks should be advised at the start of their rotation of the criteria by which they will be evaluated. It can be very helpful to inform students if you have specific criteria that are important to your site.
- Students benefit immensely from ongoing feedback sessions at the end of each series of clinical encounters.
- The mid-point evaluation: feedback two weeks into the rotation helps students direct the course of their apprenticeship to maximize their own learning potential. Students, based on their mid-point evaluation, can put into practice information that you give them about their performance and make appropriate adjustments.
- Trainees take the completion of their clerkship evaluation form very seriously. In completing this form it is important to remember that the majority of the students will be satisfactory, approximately 10% to 25% of the class will fall into the “very good” category and only 5% of the students in any given year should be rated as excellent. When you rate a student as excellent, it is imperative that the comments reflect why this student is clearly in the top 5% of students that you encounter every year. Likewise, should students have clinical skills that are unacceptable, the documentation on the weaknesses should reflect this fact. Most medical students will fall within the satisfactory to very good categories; as such you need to make certain that what you write in the comments section of the evaluation really reflects how the students did.
- Students appreciate getting comments that are extensive; particularly in those specific instances where the student excelled. It may be useful as well to comment on the different locations in which the student did his or her rotation. Remarks should be specific to the student’s performance. In the other comment section you may wish to add any observations that you feel are important for the student’s ongoing education but that you would prefer not to be quoted in letters that go to residency programs. In addition, comments such as: “he/she will be an excellent family physician” really do help us understand the student’s actual performance.

- For the most part, students appreciate if the evaluation is discussed with them at the end of their rotation. The completion of the evaluation form is required in order for students to meet promotion criteria.
- The evaluation form should be sent to the undergraduate education office at the Department of Family Medicine within 10 days of the end of the rotation.

In conclusion, students really value what you do as clinical evaluators and it is important that each one of you remember that evaluations are part of a process that hopefully will produce an excellent medical student.

CRITERIA FOR PHYSICIANSHIP	Unable to Judge	Not Competently	Competently			
ME1: Demonstrated mastery of Evaluation						
ME2: Addressed circumstances						
ME3: Addressed gaps in knowledge and/or skills						
ME4: Accepted feedback						
Legend for criteria	Unable to Judge	Satisfactory	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Superior
CRITERIA	U	S	BE	ME	EE	S
GLOBAL EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENCE						

This evaluation is based on: Direct observation (0-5), Case Discussion (0-5), Presentation at rounds (0-5), No. of sick days taken during the rotation.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Other comments NOT TO BE INCLUDED BY THE DEAN'S LETTER:

Evaluator: _____ Student: _____
(Please print name) (Signature)
(Evaluator's signature) Date: _____

Reference: Student evaluation form from the Family Medicine Department