

Top 10 Tips for Preceptors to Actively Engage Students in the Ambulatory Primary Care Setting:

- 1) Prior to the clinic, assist in developing 1-3 learning objectives/goals for the clinic (i.e. practicing physical exam maneuvers, suggesting next steps/medical decision making, presentations) and share your note template with the student.
- 2) Participate in encounter planning immediately prior to the patient visits-
 - a. Set the student up for success by sharing insight into the patient's story, motivations, and support system.
 - b. Ask...“What are some questions you may ask based on <reason for visit> to the patient to rule out more emergent situations?”
 - c. Ask...“What are some Review of Systems questions that would be important to ask for <condition>?”
- 3) Models for incorporating students into the clinical encounter:
 - a. Have the student conduct concurrent visits with the preceptor (preceptor can complete one or more visits while the student conducts the basic components of another visit) and take ownership of the care for 1-2 patients each clinic.
 - i. *Bonus! Ask the student to present the patient in the room in front of patient to limit redundancy by combining the presentation of the patient by the student with the confirmation of the story by the patient.*
 - b. Directly observe the student gathering the HPI or other specific portion of the history taking in the room while the preceptor acts as the student's scribe for that portion of the encounter.
 - c. Ask the student to directly engage in the encounter with the preceptor by asking a focused review of systems for the concern at hand.
- 4) During the visit, ask the student to update the problem and medication lists.
- 5) If the patient only has 1 or 2 concerns, ask the student to verify health maintenance status (i.e. immunizations, colon cancer screening, mammogram, PAP smear).
- 6) Encourage the student to pend orders that they think may be required and prescriptions needing refilled.
- 7) Challenge the student to write the SOAP note for 1-2 patients each clinic and review them at the end of the clinic (*Bonus! your note will be done!*).
- 8) Use the physical exam time to demonstrate 1-2 important physical exam maneuvers on each patient, especially if the physical exam is abnormal.
- 9) Always start feedback with the student's self-assessment. “How do you think it went today?”
 - a. Focus feedback by asking if/how they achieved their 1-3 learning objectives/goals for the clinic.
- 10) Debrief with the students and receive feedback on the techniques you used to <hopefully> enhance their learning during the clinic.