

TOP TEN TIPS...

for Precepting in a Busy Clinic

1. UNDERSTAND STUDENT'S GOALS

Know the goals and expectations for the student's clinical rotation.

2. KNOW STUDENT'S LEARNING LEVEL

Know the student's learning level (beginning, transitional, competent/proficient).

3. EXPLAIN PACE & PRESSURES

Make sure the student is aware of the pace and unique pressures in your practice.

4. USE ONE MINUTE PRECEPTOR METHOD

Consider using the One Minute Preceptor Method for clinical teaching and assessment.

5. INVITE STUDENT TO NON-CLINICAL ACTIVITIES

Have the student attend some of your non-clinical activities to get a better idea of your role and practice.

6. CHOOSE APPROPRIATE PATIENTS

Review cases for the day and select the most appropriate patients for the student based on their learning level and needs. Patients that you know well or who would appreciate the extra time and attention from the student may be good selections.

7. ENGAGE OTHER STAFF

Encourage students to ask questions of other staff in the clinic. They may have different perspectives on patient care that are useful, and this alleviates the need for you to be the sole source of information.

8. ENCOURAGE STUDENT TO WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS

Recommend that the student keep a notecard in his or her pocket for jotting down questions that arise during the day. These can then be addressed all at once over lunch or at the end of the day.

9. LIMIT ENCOUNTERS DURING BUSY TIMES

Set time limits on encounters with the student during the busiest times of the day.

10. SEEK STUDENT SUGGESTIONS

Suggest the student come early to clinic and review that day's cases so they can suggest appropriate patients to see based on their learning objectives.