

Suggestions for Early Third Year Students

The following suggestions may be applicable to any student, but they are especially important for early third year students or students with no previous ambulatory training.

Working with early third year medical students can pose some rewarding challenges. For many of these students their rotation at your site will be their first clinical exposure to ambulatory medicine. There are definitely ways of making this experience a highly positive and constructive one, as well as one that does not increase the burden on your valuable time.

1. Orient the new student thoroughly and as soon as possible. Provide a clear written schedule. Consider a brief time for questions at the beginning of the second week. Students often don't take in all the details in one orientation session.
2. Utilize other personnel to orient or answer the student's questions about your site.
3. Make use of the new orientation video on the clerkship website to help orientate the student to the curriculum.
4. Try to determine how this particular student learns best. Learning styles can be very different. Do they like to watch first, or do they prefer to get involved immediately?
5. Expect early third year students to see fewer patients during each half day, and allow them more time for reading, studying and working on course curricular materials.
6. Encourage students to gain experience more quickly by studying our course curricular materials on the website.
7. Initially allow inexperienced students to observe more extensively than advanced students. Have them observe you in focused encounters and procedures such as pelvic exams, casting, suturing and well child exams.
8. Give specific instruction and feedback early in the clerkship to students with little previous experience. This can save you time later. Do this again at their mid-clerkship review.
9. Think of the site orientation not only as an introduction to your site but also as an introduction to ambulatory medicine. Explain how you deal with patients' long lists, how you get through a busy clinic session, and how to be efficient at dictating notes.