## Strategies for Clinical Teaching

With a little bit of planning, it is possible to integrate an enthusiastic student into your practice in an efficient manner.

- **Make a daily plan** with your student
  - Negotiate mini-goals for the day or half day
  - Pick a specific skills to practice or observe (i.e. conduct patient interviews, listen to heart sounds; learn an abdominal exam, etc).
- **Begin with skills the student has already learned**
  - Focus on interviewing, the medical history, and the steps in the physical examination
  - After observing you as preceptor a few times, your student might conduct a medical history under your observation or alone and then make a presentation to you.
  - The entire examination does not necessarily need to be done on any single patient but portions can be performed on a given patient.
- **Review your schedule**
  - Identify specific patients that may be best for student learning
  - Limit the number of patients the student sees in a day.
- **Let students do some patient teaching**
  - Once you’ve assessed your student’s knowledge level, let him/her do some patient teaching
  - Have them go over pre-printed educational handouts; educational for both student and patient
- **Students love the technical aspects of care**
  - Let them assist in simple office procedures (toenail removals, wart removals; draining
- **When everyone is comfortable, teach with the patient present**
  - Listen to student presentation in front of the patient
  - Encourage the patient to give feedback, too.
- **Non-direct patient care tips**
  - Have the student practice writing a SOAP note
  - Let them look up a disease process that will likely present or has presented in the clinic
  - Let them learn how to fill out lab slips
- **Set up time with willing colleagues** who might have different practice styles than you or different specialties: (OR, ER, OB)

### What Students Say.....

- “I was able to practice some basic exam skills that I learned in ICM I. I learned how to do a sports physical exam.....

- “I learned some skills for listening and more effective communication with both patients and colleagues.”

- “Highlights were talking with patients and getting to do more exams; working with interpreters; attending births; learning about community medicine; seeing my preceptor live a pretty balanced life.”

- “I personally would always welcome as much information as the doctor has time to share about the condition, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, etc.”.