

Summary

Clinical Work Sampling

Purpose: Clinical work sampling was developed to assess medical student clinical performance during an eight-week internal medicine inpatient rotation.¹

Method: Data were collected using four different rating forms designed to obtain information about students' skills from the perspectives of different groups of raters, on multiple occasions, in the areas below:

- (i) For patient admission, the five-item Admission Rating Form was used, which assessed communication, physical examination, diagnostic, and management skills, and overall performance. This form was completed by an attending.
- (ii) For patient management, the eight-item Ward Rating Form was used, which assessed therapeutic strategies, communication, consultation, and management skills, interpersonal behaviors, continued learning skills, and overall performance. This form was completed by an attending.
- (iii) For team skills, the seven-item Multidisciplinary Team Rating Form was used, which assessed therapeutic strategies, communication skills, consultation skills with nurses and other health care providers, management of resources, discharge planning, interpersonal relations, and overall performance. This form was completed by a nursing supervisor.
- (iv) For patient input, the seven-item Patient's Rating Form was used, which assessed communication, collaboration, and health advocacy skills, professionalism, and overall performance.

All forms used a five-point scale (ranging from "unsatisfactory" to "excellent") and had a section for comments. Generalizability analysis was conducted to determine the number of each type of form needed to obtain a reliability of 0.7.

1. Turnbull J, MacFadyen J, van Barneveld C, Norman G. Clinical work sampling: a new approach to the problem of in-training evaluation. *J Gen Intern Med* 2000;15:556-61.