

PeArLS

(Personally Arranged Learning Session)

How do we train learners
to write notes
when we don't let them?

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The lost Art of Writing Notes

- A universal tenant of medical education includes the acquisition of effective written communication skills
- These skills were often assessed through frequent and regular written documentation of patient encounters



Do As I Say Not As I Do

- **Emerging trend**
 - Providers are required to use the electronic health record
 - Students spend less time interacting with the medical record
- **Result**
 - Infrequent documentation in the medical record



Survey Says...

- US & Canadian Education Deans (n=126) acknowledge the concerning impact on medical education when students do not write notes

Friedman et al. Taking Note of the Perceived Value and Impact of Medical Student Chart Documentation on Education and Patient Care. *Academic Medicine*, 2010



Survey Says...

- Revealing statistics in US clerkship Survey
 - only 64% of programs allow students to use EHR
 - Only 2/3rd of these allow students to write notes

Hammoud et al. Opportunities and Challenges in Integrating Electronic Health Records Into Undergraduate Medical Education: A National Survey of Clerkship Directors. *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*, 2012



Practice Makes Perfect

- Attention should be given to this critical skill early in a student's training experience
- Policies should be established to ensure that all students develop a level of competence with note writing in the EMR



Practice Makes Perfect...

1. What **barriers** have you identified that prevent students from practicing their note writing skills?



Practice Makes Perfect...

2. What **tools** have you developed to enhance the student's acquisition of the necessary note writing skills?



Practice Makes Perfect...

3. What ways can you enhance the educational experience by incorporating **clinical reasoning** into each note writing activity?



Practice Makes Perfect...

4. How might the EHR be used to provide **feedback and evaluation** on student notes?



Discussion

- What **barriers** have you identified that prevent students from practicing their note writing skills?
- What **tools** have you developed to enhance the students acquisition of the necessary note writing skills?
- What ways can you enhance teaching by incorporating **clinical reasoning** skills into each note writing activity?
- How might the EHR be used to provide **feedback and evaluation** on student notes?



Summary

How do we train learners to write notes when we don't let them?

- Barriers
- Tools
- Clinical Reasoning
- Feedback & Evaluation



Summary Tips

- Teach medical students to document electronically early in their training
- Teach medical students to advocate for their continued access to the EMR
- Continually reevaluate the educational impact of students & the EMR
- Medical educators should take active roles during design and implication of electronic health records

