

# One-Minute Preceptor

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**The One-Minute Preceptor teaching method guides the preceptor-student encounter via five microskills. This method is a brief teaching tool that fosters assessment of student knowledge as well as provision of timely feedback.** The strengths of this teaching method include: increased involvement with patients, increased clinical reasoning by the students, and the student receiving concise, high-quality feedback from the preceptor.

**When to use this:** During the "pregnant pause" (i.e., when you find yourself wanting to rush things along and give the students the answer, rather than asking for their thoughts)

**What not to do:** Ask the student for more information about the case or fill in all of the gaps that you noted in the student's knowledge base and presentation skills at once

## Microskills

### 1 Get a Commitment

Focus on one learning point. Encourage students to develop their critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills. Actively engage the student, establishing their readiness and level of competence. Push the student just beyond their comfort zone and encourage them to make a decision about something, be it a diagnosis or a plan.

*Ex: "So, tell me what you think is going on with this patient."*

### 2 Probe for Supporting Evidence

Uncover the basis for the student's decision — was it a guess or was it based on a reasonable foundation of knowledge? Establish the student's readiness and level of competency.

*Ex: "What other factors in the HPI support your diagnosis?"*

### 3 Reinforce What Was Done Well

The student might not realize they have done something well. Positive feedback reinforces desired behaviors, knowledge, skills, or attitudes.

*Ex: "You kept in mind the patient's finances when you chose a medication, which will foster compliance, thereby decreasing the risk of antibiotic resistance."*

### Summarize

Consider summarizing or concluding, ending with next steps (e.g., plan for the patient, reading assignment for the student, schedule for follow-up with the student, etc.).

### 4 Give Guidance About Errors/Omissions

Approach the student respectfully while concurrently addressing areas of need/improvement. Without timely feedback, it is difficult to improve. If mistakes are not pointed out, students may never discover that they are making these errors and hence repeat them.

*Ex: "I agree, at some point PFTs will be helpful, but when the patient is acutely ill, the results likely won't reflect his baseline. We could gain some important information with a peak flow and pulse ox instead."*

### 5 Teach a General Principle

Sharing a pearl of wisdom is your opportunity to shine, so embrace the moment! Students will apply what is shared to future experiences. Students tend to recall guiding principles, and often the individual patient may serve as a cue to recall a general rule that was taught.

*Ex: "Deciding whether or not someone with a sore throat should be started on empiric antibiotics prior to culture results can be challenging. Fortunately, there are some tested criteria that can help..."*

#### REFERENCE

Neher J, Gordon K, Meyer B, Stevens N. A five-step "microskills" model of clinical teaching. *Journal of American Board of Family Practice*, 1992; 5: 419-424.