DIRECT OBSERVATION WHILE ON CLERKSHIP ROTATIONS

Direct observation refers to the times when instructors, either faculty or resident physicians, observe you take key parts of the history or exam at the bedside.

Direct Observation of key components of taking a history and performing the physical examination is an important educational opportunity to receive individualized formative feedback and to continue to grow in these skills toward expertise.

During each core clerkship, you will be required to have a faculty physician or a resident:

1. Observe you take a key portion of one history.

2. Observe you perform a part of the physical examination. Each clerkship oversees a particular part of the exam and requires one or multiple observations as determined by the clerkship directors.

Clerkship Examination Number of Observations Required:

Medicine Lung and Heart exam	1
Neurology Neuro examination	3
OB-Gynecology Pelvic examination	4-5
Pediatrics HEENT, specifically Ear	3
Psychiatry Mental State Exam	1
Family Medicine Musculoskeletal, specifically back exam	3
Surgery Abdominal, hernia check	3

Note that in some instances that a "key" portion the exam may involve something other than that listed above. An example-- A patient is admitted for peripheral vascular disease. A faculty member observes your exam and coaches you on the best techniques for examining for AAA or femoral pulses. That certainly would count towards being directly observed on that rotation.

After each observation, be sure to enter the Direct Observation tracking system through MyLumen. Follow the prompts. An email will automatically be generated to the physician who observed you for verification.

Note that failure to complete this requirement or enter the data in the system may result in a grade of "U" for the clerkship until the requirement is fulfilled and the data entered. The deficiency may also be considered in the evaluation of your professionalism competency.

Please take full advantage of this opportunity to learn and improve your skills as you work with patients. Be intentional and deliberate in seeking out the tips your teachers may be able to offer.

Opportunities will vary on each clerkship, of course. Let the clerkship coordinator know if you encounter any difficulties or have any questions. This educational activity has been going well for many years, but if you notice significant ongoing resistance to obtaining these direct observations/coaching experiences on a particular rotation, do make us aware of it.

Thank you.