

THE 5-MINUTE CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR: A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO MANAGING PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENTS IN THE CLINIC

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Adapted from “The 5-Min Cl: A Practical Approach to Managing Physical Therapist Students in the Clinic” with permission

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Objective

- To present an efficient and effective clinical education approach to facilitate brief yet meaningful, Clinical Instructor (CI) & Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) student communication relationships



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor

- “Most clinical teaching takes place in the context of busy clinical practice where time is at a premium.”
 - Irby, D., Greer, T.,
<http://clerkship.fammed.washington.edu/teaching/Appendices/5microskills.htm>



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Fact

- Clinical Education is an integral component of Physical Therapy Education



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

- The current recommendation for PT students is 33% of the total curriculum – for PTA students is 25% of the total curriculum
- NEO has 28%



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Management Challenge: Implication

- Balancing student supervision/learning and management while maintaining productivity and other work responsibilities



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Management Challenge: Implication

- Increasing challenge in a healthcare world of varied employment situations:
 - 24/7 hours
 - Per diem
 - Part-time
 - On call
 - Job sharing
 - Travelers
 - Other
- What are or should be the job descriptions/essential tasks
???????



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Communication

- Communication is a crucial element of the CI/student relationship



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Communication cont.

- Constructive input and assessment, in a consistent manner by the CI, is necessary for professional growth, skill development and achieving PTA student entry-level competence



5- Minute Clinical Instructor: The Model

- Composed of 5, 1 minute components, the 5 Minute Clinical Instructor is a strategy for efficiently structuring (but not limiting) an interaction with a learner.
- Included in the program's Clinical Education Manual distributed to all clinical instructors



5 Minute Clinical Instructor: Inspiration

- Based on the work of Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson, whose One Minute Manager is recognized worldwide as a business tool, and Nether et al's "Microskills" Model of Clinical Teaching (1992)



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Five Content Areas

- 1) learner commitment;
 establishing goals;
 - 2) rationale evaluation;
 - 3) praising;
 - 4) reprimands; and
 - 5) take home lesson
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- This method can be applied to individual patient/client cases or the greater clinical education experience either before or after a therapist/patient-client session



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Key

- Avoid being judgmental



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor:

1. Learner Commitment; Establishing Goals

- With PTA's the goals are established but they need to address them.
- How will you address each of the patient's short-term goals?
- OR – What would you like to accomplish in this session?
- Has the patient achieved a goal – what should you do now?
- AFTER THE SESSION – Did you accomplish what you set out to do – Why or why not?



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor:

2. Rationale Evaluation:

Probe/ Evaluate The Thinking Leading To That Commitment

- With PTA's the evaluation is completed but they may need to reassess.
- What reassessment needs to be done?
- What else did you consider?



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: 3. Praising: Reinforce What Was Correct/Give Positive Feedback

- I agree with your decision(s) / conclusion(s).
- I am pleased that you included...that aspect of the intervention.
- I appreciate your consideration of reimbursement issues...



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: 4. Reprimands: Constructive Guidance About Errors Or Omissions/Give Negative Feedback

- I disagree with... your conclusions/decisions.
- What else do you think you might have included?
- A more effective way to...



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: 5. Take Home Lesson: Teach A General Principle

- So, in general, it's important to remember...
- It is always important to think about...
- In general, taking a little extra time...
- Why don't you read up on this tonight and report back tomorrow...



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Balance

- As the demands on PTs & PTAs in the clinic grow, there needs to be a balance between the professional responsibility of being a clinical instructor and fulfilling work/job obligations.
- If the method and order are known by CI and student, the student should be able to prepare and organize their processing “before and/or after”



5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Conclusion

- The 5-minute clinical instructor is a method for providing efficient evaluation and feedback to students that can easily be integrated into a standard work day; whether all or parts are utilized



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