

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST STUDENT EVALUATION:

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND CLINICAL INSTRUCTION

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Department of Physical Therapy Education  
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## PREAMBLE

The purpose of developing this tool was in response to academic and clinical educators' requests to provide a voluntary, consistent and uniform approach for students to evaluate clinical education as well as the overall clinical experience. Questions included in this draft tool were derived from the many existing tools already in use by physical therapy programs for students to evaluate the quality of the clinical learning experience and clinical instructors (CIs), as well as academic preparation for the specific learning experience. The development of this tool was based on key assumptions for the purpose, need for, and intent of this tool. These key assumptions are described in detail below. This tool consists of two sections that can be used together or separately: Section 1-Physical therapist student assessment of the clinical experience and Section 2-Physical therapist student assessment of clinical instruction. Central to the development of this tool was an assumption that students should actively engage in their learning experiences by providing candid feedback, both formative and summative, about the learning experience and with summative feedback offered at both midterm and final evaluations. One of the benefits of completing Section 2 at midterm is to provide the CI and the student with an opportunity to modify the learning experience by making midcourse corrections.

### Key Assumptions

- The tool is intended to provide the student's assessment of the quality of the clinical learning experience and the quality of clinical instruction for the specific learning experience.
- The tool allows students to objectively comment on the quality and richness of the learning experience and to provide information that would be helpful to other students, adequacy of their preparation for the specific learning experience, and effectiveness of the clinical educator(s).
- The tool is formatted in Section 2 to allow student feedback to be provided to the CI(s) at both midterm and final evaluations. This will encourage students to share their learning needs and expectations during the clinical experience, thereby allowing for program modification on the part of the CI and the student.
- Sections 1 and 2 are to be returned to the academic program for review at the conclusion of the clinical experience. Section 1 may be made available to future students to acquaint them with the learning experiences at the clinical facility. Section 2 will remain confidential and the academic program will not share this information with other students.
- The tools meet the needs of the physical therapist (PT) and physical therapist assistant (PTA) academic and clinical communities and where appropriate, distinctions are made in the tools to reflect differences in PT scope of practice and PTA scope of work.
- The student evaluation tool should not serve as the sole entity for making judgments about the quality of the clinical learning experience. This tool should be considered as part of a systematic collection of data that might include reflective student journals, self-assessments provided by clinical education sites, Center Coordinators of Clinical Education (CCCEs), and CIs based on the Guidelines for Clinical Education, ongoing communications and site visits, student performance evaluations, student planning worksheets, Clinical Site Information Form (CSIF), program outcomes, and other sources of information.

### Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the collaborative effort between the Clinical Education Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Education Section and APTA's Education Department in completing this project. We are especially indebted to those individuals from the Clinical Education SIG who willingly volunteered their time to develop and refine these tools. Comments and feedback provided by academic and clinical faculty, clinical educators, and students on several draft versions of this document were instrumental in developing, shaping, and refining the tools. Our gratitude goes out to all of those individuals and groups who willingly gave their time and expertise to work toward a common voluntary PT and PTA Student Evaluation Tool of the Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction.

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND SIGNATURES

General Information

Student Name

Academic Institution University of Massachusetts Lowell

Name of Clinical Education Site Mid Coast Hospital

Address 310 Bath Rd., Brunswick ME

Clinical Experience Number 1

Clinical Experience Dates 5/27/14 - 8/1/14

Signatures

I have reviewed information contained in this physical therapist student evaluation of the clinical education experience and of clinical instruction. I recognize that the information below is being collected to facilitate accreditation requirements for clinical instructor qualifications for students supervised in this academic program. I understand that my personal information will not be available to students in our program files.

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8/4/14

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Provide signature)

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Clinical Instructor Name (Print name)

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Clinical Instructor Name (Provide signature)

Entry-level PT degree earned Bachelors Degree  
Highest degree earned Bachelors Degree  
Years experience as a CI 20+  
Years experience as a clinician 20+  
Areas of expertise  
Clinical Certification, specify area  
APTA Credentialed CI Yes  
Other CI Credential No  
Professional organization memberships APTA Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Clinical Instructor Name (Print name)

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Clinical Instructor Name (Provide signature)

Entry-level PT degree earned Masters Degree  
Highest degree earned Masters Degree  
Years experience as a CI  
Years experience as a clinician  
Areas of expertise  
Clinical Certification, specify area  
APTA Credentialed CI Yes  
Other CI Credential No  
Professional organization memberships APTA \_Other

## SECTION 1: PT STUDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Information found in Section 1 may be available to program faculty and students to familiarize them with the learning experiences at this clinical facility.

1. Name of Clinical Education Site      Mid Coast Hospital  
     Address 310 Bath Rd., Brunswick ME
2. Clinical Experience Number      1
3. Specify the number of weeks for each applicable clinical experience/rotation.      10 weeks  
     Acute Care/Inpatient Hospital Facility      Private Practice  
     Ambulatory Care/Outpatient      Rehabilitation/Sub-acute Rehabilitation  
     ECF/Nursing Home/SNF      School/Preschool Program  
     Federal/State/County Health      Wellness/Prevention/Fitness Program  
     Industrial/Occupational Health Facility      Other

### Orientation

4. Did you receive information from the clinical facility prior to your arrival?      Yes
5. Did the on-site orientation provide you with an awareness of the information and resources that you would need for the experience?      Yes
6. What else could have been provided during the orientation?      Written out  
     objectives of the clinical experience, they were verbally discussed.

### Patient/Client Management and the Practice Environment

**For questions 7, 8, and 9, use the following 4-point rating scale:**

1= Never      2 = Rarely      3 = Occasionally      4 = Often

7. During this clinical experience, describe the frequency of time spent in each of the following areas. Rate all items in the shaded columns using the above 4-point scale.

Diversity Of Case Mix	Rating	Patient Lifespan	Rating	Continuum Of Care	Rating
Musculoskeletal	4	0-12 years	1	Critical care, ICU, Acute	2
Neuromuscular	4	13-21 years	1	SNF/ECF/Sub-acute	1
Cardiopulmonary	2	22-65 years	4	Rehabilitation	2
Integumentary	2	over 65 years	4	Ambulatory/Outpatient	4
Other (GI, GU, Renal, Metabolic, Endocrine)	1			Home Health/Hospice	1
				Wellness/Fitness/Industry	2

8. During this clinical experience, describe the frequency of time spent in providing the following components of care from the patient/client management model of the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*. Rate all items in the shaded columns using the above 4-point scale.

Components Of Care	Rating	Components Of Care	Rating
Examination	3	Diagnosis	3
• Screening	1	Prognosis	3
• History taking	1	Plan of Care	4
• Systems review	1	Interventions	4
• Tests and measures	3	Outcomes Assessment	3
Evaluation	4		

9. During this experience, how frequently did staff (ie, CI, CCCE, and clinicians) maintain an environment conducive to professional practice and growth? Rate all items in the shaded columns using the 4-point scale on page 4.

Environment	Rating
Providing a helpful and supportive attitude for your role as a PT student.	4
Providing effective role models for problem solving, communication, and teamwork.	4
Demonstrating high morale and harmonious working relationships.	4
Adhering to ethical codes and legal statutes and standards (eg, Medicare, HIPAA, informed consent, APTA Code of Ethics, etc).	4
Being sensitive to individual differences (ie, race, age, ethnicity, etc).	4
Using evidence to support clinical practice.	4
Being involved in professional development (eg, degree and non-degree continuing education, in-services, journal clubs, etc).	4
Being involved in district, state, regional, and/or national professional activities.	4

10. What suggestions, relative to the items in question #9, could you offer to improve the environment for professional practice and growth?  
I honestly don't have any recommendations, Mid Coast was a very nurturing and accepting environment that helped me grow and learn as a student

Clinical Experience

11. Were there other students at this clinical facility during your clinical experience? (Check all that apply):  
 Physical therapist students  
 Physical therapist assistant students  
 from other disciplines or service departments (Please specify OT)
12. Identify the ratio of students to CIs for your clinical experience:  
1 student to 1 CI

- X      1 student to greater than 1 CI  
 1 CI to greater than 1 student; Describe    I was with my primary CI Tina 4 days/week and my other CI Lori 1 day/week
13.      How did the clinical supervision ratio in Question #12 influence your learning experience?    I think it was great! I was able to see 2 different approaches to treatment. My 2 CI's were different in how they treated patients and the techniques they used so it was interesting and I think beneficial to have the opportunity to see both.
14.      In addition to patient/client management, what other learning experiences did you participate in during this clinical experience? (Check all that apply)
- X      Attended in-services/educational programs
- X      Presented an in-service
- X      Attended special clinics
- X      Attended team meetings/conferences/grand round
- X      Directed and supervised physical therapist assistants and other support personnel
- X      Observed surgery
- X      Participated in administrative and business practice management
- X      Participated in collaborative treatment with other disciplines to provide patient/client care (please specify disciplines— OT)
- X      Participated in opportunities to provide consultation
- X      Participated in service learning
- X      Participated in wellness/health promotion/screening programs
- X      Performed systematic data collection as part of an investigative study
- X      Other; Please specify
15.      Please provide any logistical suggestions for this location that may be helpful to students in the future. Include costs, names of resources, housing, food, parking, etc.

Overall Summary Appraisal

16.      Overall, how would you assess this clinical experience? (Check only one)
- X      Excellent clinical learning experience; would not hesitate to recommend this clinical education site to another student.  
 Time well spent; would recommend this clinical education site to another student.  
 Some good learning experiences; student program needs further development.  
 Student clinical education program is not adequately developed at this time.
17.      What specific qualities or skills do you believe a physical therapist student should have to function successfully at this clinical education site?  
 Interpersonal skills are very important as well as the ability to fit in nicely and associate with a large clinic. There are 17 clinicians of 3 different disciplines at this clinic, so at first it may seem overwhelming, but if you are able to be professional and engaging with all the clinicians it makes a very big difference.
18.      If, during this clinical education experience, you were exposed to content not included in your previous physical therapist academic preparation, describe those subject areas not addressed.  
 I was exposed to a great deal of Neuro PT as well as the upper extremity and the spine, which we have not learned about in school yet.
19.      What suggestions would you offer to future physical therapist students to improve this clinical education experience?    To review your anatomy.
20.      What do you believe were the strengths of your physical therapist academic preparation and/or coursework for *this clinical experience*?    I felt well prepared professionally, as we focused greatly on professionalism in school. Having neurophysiology was very helpful to have.
21.      What curricular suggestions do you have that would have prepared you better for *this clinical experience*?    Being more familiar with my anatomy as well as having MS 2. I think having anatomy before MS 1 and MS 2 would be more beneficial because then the anatomy is

reinforced and we'd feel more prepared for clinical. I also think being taught with the mindset of differential diagnosis behind everything would've been beneficial too.

## SECTION 2: PT STUDENT ASSESSMENT OF CLINICAL INSTRUCTION

Information found in this section is to be shared between the student and the clinical instructor(s) at midterm and final evaluations. Additional copies of Section 2 should be made when there are multiple CIs supervising the student. Information contained in Section 2 is confidential and will not be shared by the academic program with other students.

### Assessment of Clinical Instruction

22. Using the scale (1 - 5) below, rate how clinical instruction was provided during this clinical experience at both midterm and final evaluations (shaded columns).

1=*Strongly Disagree*    2=*Disagree*    3=*Neutral*    4=*Agree*    5=*Strongly Agree*

<b>Provision of Clinical Instruction</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	<b>Final</b>
The clinical instructor (CI) was familiar with the academic program's objectives and expectations for this experience.	4	4
The clinical education site had written objectives for this learning experience.	3	3
The clinical education site's objectives for this learning experience were clearly communicated.	4	4
There was an opportunity for student input into the objectives for this learning experience.	5	5
The CI provided constructive feedback on student performance.	5	5
The CI provided timely feedback on student performance.	5	5
The CI demonstrated skill in active listening.	5	5
The CI provided clear and concise communication.	5	5
The CI communicated in an open and non-threatening manner.	5	5
The CI taught in an interactive manner that encouraged problem solving.	5	5
There was a clear understanding to whom you were directly responsible and accountable.	5	5
The supervising CI was accessible when needed.	5	5
The CI clearly explained your student responsibilities.	5	5
The CI provided responsibilities that were within your scope of knowledge and skills.	4	5
The CI facilitated patient-therapist and therapist-student relationships.	5	5
Time was available with the CI to discuss patient/client management.	5	5



The CI served as a positive role model in physical therapy practice.	5	5
The CI skillfully used the clinical environment for planned and unplanned learning experiences.	5	5
The CI integrated knowledge of various learning styles into student clinical teaching.	5	5
The CI made the formal evaluation process constructive.	5	5
The CI encouraged the student to self-assess.	5	5

23. Was your CI'(s) evaluation of your level of performance in agreement with your self-assessment?

Midterm Evaluation No— My CI's rated me a lot higher than I did at the Midterm  
Final Evaluation No— I rated myself higher than my CI's did at the final

24. If there were inconsistencies, how were they discussed and managed?

Midterm Evaluation— I rated myself low at the Midterm because at that point was not very confident in my skills, however my CI's had reaffirmed my skills during the evaluation and after the midterm I began to gain more confidence in myself.

Final Evaluation— I rated myself higher than my CI's at the final because I felt I made large improvements. The way they explained it to me was that it was okay to rate myself high because I had nothing to compare my skills to with this being my first clinical and me gaining more confidence. They were rating me based on all of the other students they've had and how my skills compare in general.

25. What did your CI(s) do well to contribute to your learning?

Midterm Comments— By the midterm they were able to find my main strengths and weaknesses and spent the rest of the clinical really focusing on them.

Final Comments— We always had meetings and they would give feedback to me about areas that I could improve on or things that I did really well and I think this definitely helped my overall clinical experience. The constant feedback was great!

26. What, if anything, could your CI(s) and/or other staff have done differently to contribute to your learning?

Midterm Comments— I think at first I had too much supervision, but the way it was explained to me later was that they were just there in case I needed to ask a question. By the end, they didn't need to be there.

Final Comments

Thank you for sharing and discussing candid feedback with your CI(s) so that any necessary midcourse corrections can be made to modify and further enhance your learning experience.

