

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST STUDENT  
EVALUATION:**

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
AND  
CLINICAL INSTRUCTION**

June 12, 2003



**American Physical Therapy Association  
Department of Physical Therapy Education  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

## **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.

Ad Hoc Group Members: Jackie Crossen-Sills, PT, MS, Nancy Erikson, PT, MS, GCS, Peggy Gleeson, PT, PhD, Deborah Ingram, PT, EdD, Corrie Odom, PT, DPT, ATC, and Karen O'Loughlin, PT, MA

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**GENERAL INFORMATION AND SIGNATURES**

General Information

Student Name

Academic Institution **UMass Lowell**

Name of Clinical Education Site **Mercy Medical Center - Inpatient Acute**

Address **271 Carew St., 4th floor** City **Springfield** State **MA**

Clinical Experience Number **2** Clinical Experience Dates **6/6/16 - 8/26/16**

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Provide signature) 8/24/16 Date

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

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

Entry Level PT and Highest Degree earned : Bachelor's Degree ( BS ) in P.T. from Northeastern University

Years as CI: 8 to 9 years

Years experience as clinician: 16.5 years

Areas of expertise: Acute Care and Inpatient rehab Adult population

Clinical certification: none

APTA Credentialed CI : No

other CI credentialed: No

Professional Organization membership: No

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

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

Entry-level PT degree earned

Highest degree earned \_Degree area

Years experience as a CI

Years experience as a clinician

Areas of expertise

Clinical Certification, specify area

APTA Credentialed CI Yes No

Other CI Credential State Yes 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      **Mercy Medical Center**  
 Address    **271 Carew St.**                      City    **Springfield**                      State    **MA**

2. Clinical Experience Number    **2**

3. Specify the number of weeks for each applicable clinical experience/rotation.

Acute Care/Inpatient Hospital Facility <b>11</b>	Private Practice
Ambulatory Care/Outpatient	Rehabilitation/Sub-acute Rehabilitation <b>1</b>
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**    No

5. Did the on-site orientation provide you with an awareness of the information and resources that you would need for the experience?      **Yes**    No

6. What else could have been provided during the orientation? **The hospital is such a big place that I think the first week of gradually learning the floors, staff, and services was excellent**

### **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	4
Neuromuscular	3	13-21 years	2	SNF/ECF/Sub-acute	1
Cardiopulmonary	4	22-65 years	4	Rehabilitation	2
Integumentary	2	over 65 years	4	Ambulatory/Outpatient	1
Other (GI, GU, Renal, Metabolic, Endocrine)	3			Home Health/Hospice	1
				Wellness/Fitness/Industry	1

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		Diagnosis	1
● Screening	4	Prognosis	4
● History taking	2	Plan of Care	4
● Systems review	3	Interventions	3

● 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).	3
Being involved in district, state, regional, and/or national professional activities.	2

10. What suggestions, relative to the items in question #9, could you offer to improve the environment for professional practice and growth? **The MMC acute care staff does a lot already. There isn't much to add. Nancy and Eileen created a number of opportunities to observe and participate in a wide variety of "extra-curricular" activities (observing surgery, OT, SLP, rehab, etc) that enriched my experience more than I could have imagined.**

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 )

12. Identify the ratio of students to CIs for your clinical experience:

1 student to 1 CI  
**1 student to greater than 1 CI**  
1 CI to greater than 1 student; Describe

13. How did the clinical supervision ratio in Question #12 influence your learning experience? **I got differing viewpoints that gave me perspective on how I see myself treating patients in the future. The quality of care was the same, but their individual style, approach, and questions influenced my decision making process**
14. In addition to patient/client management, what other learning experiences did you participate in during this clinical experience? (Check all that apply)

**Attended in-services/educational programs**  
**Presented an in-service**  
**Attended special clinics**  
**Attended team meetings/conferences/grand rounds**  
**Directed and supervised physical therapist assistants and other support personnel**

**Observed surgery**

Participated in administrative and business practice management

**Participated in collaborative treatment with other disciplines to provide patient/client care (please specify disciplines) OT**

Participated in opportunities to provide consultation

Participated in service learning

Participated in wellness/health promotion/screening programs

Performed systematic data collection as part of an investigative study

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.

**Parking at MMC is free for students with a sticker. The cafeteria food is good, and most of the staff purchases lunch, but I brought lunch nearly every day. I lucked out by staying with family friends who lived 20 minutes away from the hospital. The area around the hospital is not the safest, but Springfield has an excellent night life. Check out Smith's Billiards on Worthington St. for pool, great beer, and BBQ.**

Overall Summary Appraisal

16. Overall, how would you assess this clinical experience? (Check only one)

**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? **SAFETY!!!!, Confident communication, checking vitals and safe values, documentation, transfers, choosing appropriate ADs, compassion**

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.

**Dr. Mendes did an excellent job talking about all the things we're going to see in acute care, and you look at the list of different complex medical conditions she gives one patient and think, "Ha, no way someone has all that going on." You dismiss it, thinking surely someone with end stage renal disease, diabetes, COPD, CHF, confusion due to a newly developed UTI, and ataxia will never walk through the door...and then Mrs. Jones gets wheeled in. Her med list is a half page long, and she has all those diagnoses AND A-fib on top of it all, and for some reason she came to the gym without O2...I was well prepared, but I dismissed it. Understand that complex medical patients are very normal in acute care.**

19. What suggestions would you offer to future physical therapist students to improve this clinical education experience? **Listen to Dr. Mendes, Dr. Hallbourg in PT1, whoever teaches cardiopulm, and anyone talking about care for the very debilitated.**

20. What do you believe were the strengths of your physical therapist academic preparation and/or coursework for *this clinical experience*?

**Knowing vitals and safe values, safety, cardiopulm, PT1, MS1 and MS2, exam and eval,**

21. What curricular suggestions do you have that would have prepared you better for *this clinical experience*?

**Knowing how to appropriately plan for d/c, what to do when there's a code/potential for a code.**



## **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	5
The clinical education site had written objectives for this learning experience.	5	5
The clinical education site's objectives for this learning experience were clearly communicated.	5	5
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.	4	4
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.	4	4
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.	4	5
The CI provided responsibilities that were within your scope of knowledge and skills.	5	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.	4	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.	4	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    **Yes** No                      Final Evaluation    **Yes** No

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

Midterm Evaluation **No inconsistencies. Meeting with Dr. Hallbourg immensely helped with a communication issue. Once that was resolved, the whole clinical experience went much more smoothly.**

Final Evaluation **No inconsistencies. Much better communication over time**

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

Midterm Comments **Nancy was strict about good documentation, which is a skill I will be able to take with me everywhere. I was too wordy and unnecessary during the first few weeks of this internship, and she helped cut out the clutter.**

Final Comments **Nancy helped me gain my voice. I didn't speak enough when I needed to and talked too much when I should've been listening. I feel my communication is calmer, present in the moment, and authoritative for patients who are in need of guidance after ending up in the hospital.**

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

Midterm Comments **I wanted Nancy to loosen the reins very early on this internship, but I benefited from having her watchful eye close by. I grew to understand why she stayed close and that I really needed her help.**

Final Comments **Nancy, Rachel, Eileen, Tracy, Becky, and Jackie are wellsprings of information, assistance, and wisdom. Their different approaches to patient care, while sometimes conflicting, helped me understand that I can learn a little from everyone and piece together what I feel is best practice for my patients.**

**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.**