

**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.

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND SIGNATURES

General Information

Student Name

Academic Institution University of Massachusetts Lowell

Name of Clinical Education Site MetroWest Medical Center

Address 115 Lincoln St. City Framingham State MA

Clinical Experience Number 1 Clinical Experience Dates 05/21/2018 – 07/27/2018

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) 07/28/2018 Date

Primary Clinical Instructor Name 07/28/2018 Date

Entry-level PT degree earned Bachelor of PT
Highest degree earned Bachelor Degree area Physical Therapy
Years experience as a CI >10
Years experience as a clinician 27
Areas of expertise Acute care
Clinical Certification, specify area _____
APTA Credentialed CI Yes No
Other CI Credential _____ State Yes No
Professional organization memberships APTA Other

Additional Clinical Instructor Name

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 MetroWest Medical Center

Address 115 Lincoln St.

City Framingham

State MA

2. Clinical Experience Number 1

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

10 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 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? A little bit more information about what to do in case of an emergency; (i.e. how and when to call a "rapid response")

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	2	0-12 years	1	Critical care, ICU, Acute	4
Neuromuscular	3	13-21 years	1	SNF/ECF/Sub-acute	1
Cardiopulmonary	4	22-65 years	3	Rehabilitation	1
Integumentary	3	over 65 years	4	Ambulatory/Outpatient	1
Other (GI, GU, Renal, Metabolic, Endocrine)	4			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	1	Prognosis	4
• History taking	4	Plan of Care	4
• Systems review	4	Interventions	4
• Tests and measures	2	Outcomes Assessment	4
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.	3

10. What suggestions, relative to the items in question #9, could you offer to improve the environment for professional practice and growth?

I don't have suggestions because I think the rehab department already does an excellent job with hosting students and being conducive to the professional development of students.

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 (Physician's assistant and Nursing)

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

- 1 student to 1 CI (Although there were 2 other therapists that I worked with some days when my CI went home early or took the day off)
- 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 found that because I spent the most time with my CI, Jim, I tended to treat patients and complete documentation very similarly to how he does. However, because of the fact that I spent a fairly significant amount of time learning from the other two inpatient therapists at the hospital, I was exposed to different ways to provide treatment interventions in the inpatient setting and different ways to complete documentation, as well. The documentation was one thing that I noticed really varied from therapist to therapist and I had to learn to document differently depending on whoever was supervising me that day.

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) Occupational therapists

- 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; Observed special care nursery PT; Observed an outpatient PT evaluation

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 is free and there is a cafeteria, but there is also a refrigerator and a microwave if you bring your own lunch.

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?

A desire to learn about a wide variety of medical issues, and the ability to make patients that are in very difficult and hopeless situations feel supported, cared for, and motivated.

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.

Most of what I was exposed to at my clinical site was content that was not included in my academic preparation. I only dealt with sick patients, as opposed to injured patients, so the main classes that I tried to pull some of my knowledge from were Pathology, Cardiopulmonary PT, and a little bit of Neurophysiology. Those classes were a little disorganized and I didn't retain much from them that helped me, so instead, I learned everything I needed to know from my CI.

19. What suggestions would you offer to future physical therapist students to improve this clinical education experience?

A suggestion I have for future physical therapist students is to review medications that go along with cardiopulmonary conditions because then you will have a sense of what kinds of problems the patients are dealing with when you do the chart reviews.

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

I think a strength of the PT academic preparation I was given was PT Interventions I. This is the course where I learned how to teach gait training and the use of assistive devices on and off the stairs, which came in handy at my clinical. I also learned how to do transfers in this course and how to adjust the way in which we transfer patients if they had a stroke. PT Interventions Lab gave us the great opportunity to work with actors acting as a patients, too, and that was probably the most helpful preparation of all.

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

I think it would've been helpful to have gone over billing codes, insurance issues, and how to do charges a little bit more in the Professional Issues course.

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*

Provision of Clinical Instruction	Midterm	Final
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.	2	2
The clinical education site's objectives for this learning experience were clearly communicated.	3	3
There was an opportunity for student input into the objectives for this learning experience.	2	2
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.	3	3
The supervising CI was accessible when needed.	4	4
The CI clearly explained your student responsibilities.	4	4
The CI provided responsibilities that were within your scope of knowledge and skills.	5	5
The CI facilitated patient-therapist and therapist-student relationships.	4	4
Time was available with the CI to discuss patient/client management.	4	4
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 Yes No Final Evaluation Yes No

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

Midterm Evaluation: The inconsistencies were mostly due to my lack of understanding of the CPI's ranking scale. I was a little confused about the connection between the amount of patient's I could handle seeing independently and the categories on the CPI. Our comments displayed that we were in agreement about where I stood, though. My CI explained the scale a little bit more to me and told me to focus on the comments more than the ranking scale, anyways.

Final Evaluation: There were no inconsistencies between my evaluation of myself and my CI's evaluation of me.

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

Midterm Comments: My CI has done a good job of pushing me to initiate conversations with patients to start the treatment sessions. He pushes me out of my comfort zone without leaving me to feel alone and overwhelmed.

Final Comments: My CI has progressively given me more and more responsibilities, at a pace that I feel was appropriate. He has made sure that I've had exposure to every single part of the job of a physical therapist at this hospital and he has encouraged me to go off with other therapists when they get patients that are interesting and that he thinks I could gain something from.

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

Midterm Comments: One thing that I would have preferred, contrary to my previous comments, is a little less time with the other therapists, because it did sometimes get confusing to have to change the way I documented notes based on who was my supervisor that day. However, my CI sometimes needed to go home early for a number of reasons, and I suppose this time with other therapists was inevitable.

Final Comments: One thing that my CI mentioned at the beginning of the summer and then never really followed through on was observing a surgery. I did want to observe a surgery but I think when things got busier as the semester went on, the whole matter was pushed aside and forgotten. It is partially my fault for not reminding him in the last few weeks, but I didn't want to seem ungrateful for all the things I did get to see.

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.