

PRECEPTOR SERIES INTRODUCTION:

Pharmacists are Teachers

by Amanda Margolis, PharmD, MS, BCACP



Pharmacists are teachers. Whether you precept residents and students, train new staff, or educate patients and other healthcare providers on medication use, you provide education throughout the healthcare system. Many pharmacists work with students and residents, and precepting pearls are a common suggestion for issue themes and articles. Based on this feedback, The Journal is kicking off a preceptor series this year with short reviews of teaching techniques. These articles are meant to be digestible reviews with suggestions for advancing your experiential teaching.

Enthusiasm for teaching and an awareness of the learner's gaps in knowledge may not be enough to create an environment that ignites self-directed

learning. Teaching moments can still occur under time constraints in a busy, patient-centered practice, so maximizing the impact of each encounter is important. Following a simple model with every interaction can help preceptors achieve their teaching goals. Neher introduced a five-step model of clinical teaching that focuses on simple behaviors called "microskills," commonly known as the One-minute Preceptor.¹ The microskills are designed to guide the teaching experience in 5 minutes or less; which is ideal in a busy clinical environment. The One-minute Preceptor model has been shown to improve students' perceptions of teaching skills and is generally well received by preceptors.²

As the series coordinator, I have identified individuals throughout the state

with hands-on experience in precepting to contribute to the series. In this issue, we review the one-minute preceptor technique, including examples. Throughout the year, you'll find articles with suggestions for delivering feedback and structuring orientation, and many other topics. Even if you do not formally precept students or residents I believe many of these techniques may be useful with other staff and in patient care. I hope you find the preceptor series valuable, and I look forward to the feedback from readers of The Journal. ●

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