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Assessment of Family Medicine Residents - Field Notes

Contributor: Alison Baker

Field notes are written feedback after observation of a resident interaction with a patient, family member, clinical team member, or during discussions with a preceptor. They are formative feedback to provide residents with documentation of skills they have acquired and that may require further development. Field notes are meant to provide positive feedback (“done well”) to reinforce behaviours and skills essential for practice, as well as constructive feedback (“work on”) about skills that require improvement during training. (CFPC 2016)

The following infographic contains information about completing field notes for McMaster family medicine residents.



ASSESSMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENTS

FIELD NOTES

A TOOL FOR LEARNING

- Document feedback - verbal feedback is important but insufficient
- Formative assessment - identify resident strengths and challenges and use for educational planning
- Track resident progress - review completed field notes at the Portfolio Review

HOW TO DO A FIELD NOTE

- Electronically in MedSIS - mobile or desktop (need MacID)
- Select learner and rotation (use FM Longitudinal for half-days back at home clinic)
- Select Domain of Care and EPA
- Supervisor must sign off on resident-completed field notes

WHAT MAKES A GOOD FIELD NOTE?

- Timely - completed as soon as possible after the clinical encounter (30 day expiry)
- Provide specific and meaningful feedback
- Narrative is about resident performance - what was done well and what needs to be worked on - rather than about the task or clinical encounter

HOW MANY FIELD NOTES?

- The more the better!
- Shows resident progression if more than 1 field note per EPA
- Each resident must have a minimum of 40 field notes in each year of the program
- Include field notes for procedures and professional behaviour

TIPS

- Bookmark MedSIS mobile on your device
- Use speech-to-text on mobile
- See a graph of field notes completed per portfolio review period by clicking on the tiny bar graph in the Domains of Care line on the resident's EPA dashboard

RESOURCES



MedSIS
(medsis.mcmaster.ca)



MedSIS tutorials



Domain and EPA Reference Guide

For MacID assistance, please contact fmappts@mcmaster.ca.

QUESTIONS?

Assessment in Family Medicine: fmassess@mcmaster.ca

Additional Resources:

<https://medsisinfo.mcmaster.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/family-medicine-field-note-sample.pdf>

<https://www.cfp.ca/content/cfp/55/12/1260.full.pdf>

https://www.cfpc.ca/CFPC/media/Resources/Communications/GIFT_HandoutforRes_ENG_RevMay18_Web.pdf