Dear Colleagues,

Here is the DMEDS update for 1219/06 now at the end of the 3A/3B block. We continue to add new features and fix small glitches, especially when noted by our students. I've added a brief note for each clerkship director based on this last cycle of data. I've added a new feature that might be of interest to each of you as well, beginning to track one or two features that may be of special interest to each of your clerkships.

Also, keep your eyes open for the January issue of Academic Medicine. Our communal effort to describe the development and capabilities of DMEDS will appear there. Don West is also starting to work on an article that describes what students on the psych clerkship at DMS do, see, and learn in all six competency areas, viewed through the DMEDS window.

We are now using DMEDS in two fellowships as well--Clin Pharm and Rheumatology.

Have a great holiday break!!!

Dave Nierenberg
FOR THE 7-WEEK CLERKSHIPS:

FAMILY MEDICINE
26 students in all have taken the clerkship, who recorded 2480 total encounters (averaging 95 patient encounters per student, and 6.8 encounters per day for the 14 days they are recording); 85% of encounters had instruction recorded; 60% of encounters had feedback recorded; 1.1% of all recorded encounters were declined by patients. Students documented an average of 21 routine health maintenance encounters, of special interest in your clerkship.

NICE WORK ON APPROPRIATE NUMBERS FOR AVERAGE ENCOUNTERS PER STUDENT AND AVERAGE ENCOUNTERS PER SAMPLING DAY ON CLERKSHIP. I KNOW YOUR MODEL IS TO RECORD ALL ENCOUNTERS FOR JUST TWO DAYS PER WEEK, SO THIS GIVES YOU A GOOD INDICATION OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF ENCOUNTERS PER DAY. EXCELLENT STATS FOR ENCOUNTERS WITH INSTRUCTION AND ENCOUNTERS WITH FEEDBACK.
INPATIENT MEDICINE
34 students, 675 total encounters (average 19.9 per student, and 0.5 encounters per day assuming 42 days), 93% with instruction, 77% with feedback, 0 % of patients declined. Of special interest to this clerkship, stats were high for students seeing patients with CV and GI conditions (for CV, average was 8.7 encounters, and for GI the average was 10.2 per student).

NICE WORK ON APPROPRIATE NUMBERS FOR AVERAGE ENCOUNTERS PER STUDENT. TERRIFIC PERCENTAGE OF ENCOUNTERS INCLUDED INSTRUCTION OR FEEDBACK TO THE STUDENT FROM THE PRECEPTOR; IN FACT, THESE STATS WERE HIGHEST AMONG ALL CLERKSHIPS THIS CYCLE.
**OB/GYN**

32 students, 2910 encounters (average 91 per student, average 2.2 per student per day assuming 42 days total), 85% with instruction, 61% with feedback, 3.1% of patients declined. Of special interest to this clerkship, students documented an average of 90 female reproductive diagnoses, and 77 PE skills directly relevant to this clerkship.

**THIS CLERKSHIP CONTINUES TO HAVE A HIGH BUT APPROPRIATE AVERAGE FOR ENCOUNTERS DOCUMENTED PER STUDENT, AND ENCOUNTERS DOCUMENTED PER STUDENT PER DAY. THERE APPEARS TO BE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO SEE PATIENTS WITH FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE CONDITIONS, AND TO LEARN THESE IMPORTANT PORTIONS OF THE PE.**
**Pediatrics**

331 students, 2838 total encounters (average 86 per student, average 2.0 encounters per student per day assuming 42 days total), 83% with instruction, 55% with feedback, 0.4% of patients declined. Of special interest to Peds, students average 18 encounters with EENT conditions, and 121 documented PE skills, many of which are specific to pediatric conditions.

The average encounters per student (and per day) seem appropriate given the mixture of inpatient and outpatient experiences in this clerkship. It appears students are seeing patients and practicing some skills that are unique to Peds patients.
**Psych**

32 students, 859 encounters (average 27 per student, average 0.8 new encounter per student per day assuming 42 total days), 78% of encounters with instruction, 54% with feedback, 0.5% of patients declined. Of special interest to Psych, students averaged recording 48 psych conditions, and 22 encounters with counseling skills documented.

For this clerkship, with the mixture of inpatient and outpatient experiences, the average encounters per student per day should probably not drop below current level of 0.8 in order to allow each student to have a representative sampling of all patient encounters during the clerkship. Interestingly, it appears that each patient encounter (average 27 per student) is associated with an average of 1.8 psych conditions. Don West is always stressing psych comorbid conditions during year 2, and it appears to be real in student encounters during year 3.
SURGERY
31 students, 2093 encounters (average 68 per student, average 1.6 encounters per student per day assuming 42 days total), 86% of encounters with instruction, 57% with feedback, 0.0% of patients declined. Of special interest to this clerkship, students on average documented 10 chances to do simple suturing, 3 chances to do complex suturing, and 37 observed cases in the OR.

THIS CLERKSHIP CONTINUES TO DO AN EXCELLENT JOB IN MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF AVERAGE ENCOUNTERS DOCUMENTED PER STUDENT PER DAY, GOOD PERCENTAGE WITH INSTRUCTION, AND VERY FEW PATIENTS DECLINING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT.
FOR THE FOUR-WEEK CLERKSHIPS:

**NEURO**

20 students, 421 encounters (average 21 encounters per student, average 1.1 encounters per student per day assuming 20 days total), 90% with instruction, 61% with feedback, 0.0% of patients declined. Of special interest to Neuro clerkship, students averaged documenting 25 neuro conditions and diagnoses in their average of 21 patients documented, averaged assisting at or doing 0.8 LP's, and completed 15 Neuro exams (plus more complete exams that included Neuro exam).

GOOD JOB INCREASING AVERAGE ENCOUNTERS PER STUDENT UP TO 21. COULD POSSIBLY GO A BIT HIGHER TO MAKE SURE THAT STUDENTS ARE GETTING EXPOSURE TO (AND ARE ABLE TO DOCUMENT) A WIDER AND REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF PATIENTS AND DIAGNOSES. SUPERB JOB WITH % OF ENCOUNTERS ASSOCIATED WITH INSTRUCTION.
GERIATRICS AND AMBULATORY MEDICINE
19 students, 866 encounters (average 46 encounters per student, average 2.3 encounters per student per day assuming 20 days total), 91% with instruction, 56% with feedback, 0.2% of patients declined. Of special interest to this clerkship, students documented an average of 34 counseling skills used during this average of 46 documented patient encounters.

AVERAGE ENCOUNTERS PER STUDENT (AND PER DAY) SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR THIS 4-WEEK CLERKSHIP, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO DOCUMENT A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING OF THEIR OUTPATIENTS WITHOUT BEING EXCESSIVE. % OF ENCOUNTERS WITH INSTRUCTION OR FEEDBACK WAS SUPERB.
FOR ON DOCTORING

ON-DOCTORING 1
89 students have documented at least one patient encounter, 1000 total encounters (average 11.2 encounters per student, average 1.6 encounters per student per day assuming 7 afternoons total thus far), 77% with instruction, 55% with feedback, 7.5% of patients declined some student involvement. Of special interest to this clerkship, students are averaging 17 interviewing skills and 15 PE skills practiced thus far with the average of 11.2 patients.

OD-1 IS WORKING ON GETTING ALL STUDENTS IN THE CLASS INVOLVED IN DOCUMENTING THEIR PATIENT ENCOUNTERS DURING THEIR PRECEPTOR AFTERNOONS; now with 89 students signed on, this must be virtually the whole class. Still seems to me like relatively low number of encounters (1.6) per afternoon in clinic.

ALSO NOTED UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH RATE OF REFUSAL BY PATIENTS; NOT SURE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
ON-DOCTORING 2
80 students have documented at least one patient encounter, 1287 total encounters (average 16.1 encounters per student, average 2.3 encounters per student per day assuming 7 afternoons total thus far), 81% with instruction, 62% with feedback, 1.6% of patients declined some student involvement. Of special interest to this clerkship, students are averaging 36 PE skills practiced AS WELL AS 41 INTERVIEWING SKILLS PRACTICED.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE ABOUT 90 YEAR 2 STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN OD-2. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ROUGHLY 10 MISSING STUDENTS BEGIN DOCUMENTING THEIR CLINICAL EXPERIENCES IMMEDIATELY, SINCE WE HAVE PROMISED THE LCME THAT WE WILL USE THIS SYSTEM TO DOCUMENT THAT ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF ASSIGNED SITE, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPARABLE CURRICULUM IN EACH OF OUR 10 REQUIRED CLERKSHIPS (OF WHICH OD-2 IS THE SECOND ONE).
ITEMS BEING WORKED ON:

1/08: Brian is working on programming the complete physical exam to also automatically provide credit for about 15 subcomponents (such as neuro exam, cardiac exam, pulmonary exam, skin exam, etc).

1/08: At the request of the Psych clerkship, we will be adding an item called Mental Status Exam, which is different from the Mini-Mental Status Exam (30 items), and different from the Neuro exam.
ITEMS RECENTLY COMPLETED:

12/06: We have installed new software that will allow students to document encounters on their laptops in a doctor's office, SAVE THE ENCOUNTER WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS, AND THEN DOWNLOAD THE ENCOUNTER(S) WHEN THEY GET HOME, OR WHEN THEY LATER HAVE INTERNET ACCESS.

This may be especially useful for students who work in offices that do not have good internet access. We hope to see if this new software works, and whether a lot of students find it useful, since it costs about $4,000 per year to obtain the site license. We will make a decision in late summer whether student use of this software is high enough to justify the high cost of the site license for 2008.

10/1/06: Any Y3 or Y4 student, if they wish, can document encounters during any subinternship or any clinical elective in a clinical dept using the new feature “MY ELECTIVES.” This is in response to requests from multiple students to allow such documentation for their personal use in such clinical experiences.

10/1/06: Aggregate reports have been modified to display percentage of encounters with instruction, percentage of encounters with feedback, and we no longer track quality of feedback, since those data had not been helpful. We also now display percentage of encounters in which students were declined for part or all of the encounter.