THE 5-MINUTE CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR: A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO MANAGING PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENTS IN THE CLINIC

by Sidney Morgan, PTA, MS
PTA Program Director
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College

Adapted from “The 5-Min CI: A Practical Approach to Managing Physical Therapist Students in the Clinic” with permission
Debra F. Stern, PT, DBA,
Rebecca Rosenthal, PT, JD,
Leah Nof, PT, PhD
Nova Southeastern University
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, USA
Contact: debras@nova.edu
Objective

• To present an efficient and effective clinical education approach to facilitate brief yet meaningful, Clinical Instructor (CI) & Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) student communication relationships
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor

• “Most clinical teaching takes place in the context of busy clinical practice where time is at a premium.”

  – Irby, D., Greer, T.,
  http://clerkship.fammed.washington.edu/teaching/Appendices/5microskills.htm
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Fact

• Clinical Education is an integral component of Physical Therapy Education
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

- The current recommendation for PT students is 33% of the total curriculum – for PTA students is 25% of the total curriculum
- NEO has 28%
Balancing student supervision/learning and management while maintaining productivity and other work responsibilities
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Management Challenge: Implication

• Increasing challenge in a healthcare world of varied employment situations:
  – 24/7 hours
  – Per diem
  – Part-time
  – On call
  – Job sharing
  – Travelers
  – Other

• What are or should be the job descriptions/essential tasks ????????
5–Minute Clinical Instructor: Communication

- Communication is a crucial element of the CI/student relationship
Communication cont.

- Constructive input and assessment, in a consistent manner by the CI, is necessary for professional growth, skill development and achieving PTA student entry-level competence.
5- Minute Clinical Instructor: The Model

- Composed of 5, 1 minute components, the 5 Minute Clinical Instructor is a strategy for efficiently structuring (but not limiting) an interaction with a learner.

- Included in the program’s Clinical Education Manual distributed to all clinical instructors
5 Minute Clinical Instructor: Inspiration

- Based on the work of Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson, whose One Minute Manager is recognized worldwide as a business tool, and Nether et al’s "Microskills" Model of Clinical Teaching (1992)
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Five Content Areas

• 1) learner commitment; establishing goals;
• 2) rationale evaluation;
• 3) praising;
• 4) reprimands; and
• 5) take home lesson

This method can be applied to individual patient/client cases or the greater clinical education experience either before or after a therapist/patient-client session
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Key

- Avoid being judgmental
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor:
1. Learner Commitment; Establishing Goals

- With PTA’s the goals are established but they need to address them.
- How will you address each of the patient’s short-term goals?
- OR – What would you like to accomplish in this session?
- Has the patient achieved a goal – what should you do now?
- AFTER THE SESSION – Did you accomplish what you set out to do – Why or why not?
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor:
2. Rationale Evaluation:
Probing/ Evaluate The Thinking Leading To That Commitment

• With PTA’s the evaluation is completed but they may need to reassess.
• What reassessment needs to be done?
• What else did you consider?
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor:
3. Praising: Reinforce What Was Correct/Give Positive Feedback

- I agree with your decision(s) / conclusion(s).
- I am pleased that you included...that aspect of the intervention.
- I appreciate your consideration of reimbursement issues...
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor:
4. Reprimands: Constructive Guidance About Errors Or Omissions/Give Negative Feedback

- I disagree with... your conclusions/decisions.
- What else do you think you might have included?
- A more effective way to...
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor:
5. Take Home Lesson: Teach A General Principle

• So, in general, it's important to remember...
• It is always important to think about...
• In general, taking a little extra time...
• Why don't you read up on this tonight and report back tomorrow...
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Balance

- As the demands on PTs & PTAs in the clinic grow, there needs to be a balance between the professional responsibility of being a clinical instructor and fulfilling work/job obligations.
- If the method and order are known by CI and student, the student should be able to prepare and organize their processing “before and/or after”
5 – Minute Clinical Instructor: Conclusion

• The 5-minute clinical instructor is a method for providing efficient evaluation and feedback to students that can easily be integrated into a standard work day; whether all or parts are utilized
References

- Irby, D., Greer, T., http://clerkship.fammed.washington.edu/teaching/Appendices/5microskills.htm