

WBAs in Clerkship

December 1, 2023

Message from the EPA team

Dear Colleagues:

As we wrap up 2023, the Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) team would like to provide you with an update on the implementation of EPAs. The 2T5 students have settled into their clerkship rotations and EPAs have replaced the mix of prior workplace-based assessments in core courses. For example, on Internal Medicine, students complete EPAs in place of their ambulatory clinic assessments and observed history and physical forms.

MythBusters

Myth: “Only specific clinical encounters are EPA worthy”

- **Truth:** Any clinical encounter provides an opportunity to complete an EPA - a health maintenance visit, an ER consult, reading an X-ray or ECG, suturing, counseling, discussing an approach to anemia, reviewing written notes, etc. Students and assessors can determine which encounters to use for an EPA, ideally in advance.

Myth: “EPAs are to replace verbal feedback”

- **Truth:** EPAs take **less than two minutes** to complete and capture the feedback conversation the assessor has with the student. It saves time to complete them in the moment or at the end of a clinic or shift.

Myth: Comments captured in the action plan for improvement on the EPA form show up on Medical Student Performance Record (MSPR)

- **Truth:** MSPR narrative comments will exclusively reflect **strengths** noted in final clinical assessment forms, excluding interim feedback or inputs from other sources.

Thank you for all that you do for student learning and advancement. We wish you a restful break ahead!

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How do EPAs differ from Clinical Assessment forms?

EPAs	Clinical Assessments
Formative	Summative
Low stakes snapshots of specific clinical skills	Captures holistic clinical performance over time on a shift or rotation

WBAs in Clerkship resources



Highest number of EPAs completed for a single student on rotation is 23. And over 3,000+ EPAs completed for the clerkship class so far.

[A 2-page primer on providing and receiving feedback](#)



https://meded.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/resource/_giving-and-receiving-feedbacks-epas

[A 6-minute whiteboard presentation on providing feedback](#)



<https://ofd.med.utoronto.ca/resource/how-improve-narrative-feedback>

[Additional Resources](#)



<https://meded.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/assessing-entrustable-professional-activities-epa-clerkship>