

Introduction to Supervising FMLE Students1

What do year two students already know?

Students participating in the FMLE will be in their second year of training in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Prior to beginning FMLE, students will have already completed courses covering anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, neuroanatomy and some neuroscience. They will have also completed a course related to the determinants of health, and public health issues. In addition, they will have completed the first year of Clinical Skills, an introductory clinical skills course where students develop the fundamental skills of patient interviewing and the physical examination.

All students entering year two have developed a level of proficiency in the basic history-taking and physical examination skills taught in Clinical Skills. They will have practiced histories and physical examinations with standardized patients and some with 'real' patients as well.

All students have **already learned** the following specific skills during their first year and a half of medical school in the ICE: Clinical Skills I and II Courses:

1. How to take a **comprehensive history** with a new patient including chief complaint, history of the present illness, past medical history, social and family history, and functional enquiry.
2. How to take a **focused history** based on a singular medical complaint.
3. How to do a **specialized history** for substance use history, male genitourinary system history, sexual history (basic; to be further expanded upon in year 2). Most recently, students have practiced doing a Zoom history with psychiatric standardized patients.
4. General physical examination skills including vital signs, and the examination of the following:
Students have OSCE exams on some of the below skills. They would welcome the opportunity to be exposed to them in your clinic.
 - a. JVP and volume assessment
 - b. Carotid pulse
 - c. Precordium/heart sounds
 - d. Peripheral vascular system
 - e. Respiratory exam (anterior and posterior chest)
 - f. Dermatology (one 4-hour session)
 - g. Head and neck exam (thyroid and lymph nodes)*
 - h. Abdominal exam and volume assessment*
 - i. MSK exams (knee, hip, shoulder, back) – they refer to as GALS (gait, arms, legs and spine) exam*
 - j. ENT exam (ears, nose, oral cavity, tonsils, and how to use an otoscope) (one 4-hour session)*
 - k. Ophthalmology–clinicaltheoryonly–didnotincludefundoscopyorslitlamp*
 - l. Neurological exam*
5. How to write up a comprehensive case report.

From **January to May**, students are taught the following additional skills:

1. Specialized History Taking Skills
 - a. Breast history
 - b. Sexual history
 - c. Palliative care interview
2. Physical Exam Skills
 - a. Male genital exam (including the DRE)
 - b. Female pelvic exam
 - c. Breast exam
 - d. Acute abdomen (examining for guarding, rebound, cough/shake tenderness, signs for appendicitis, cholecystitis, etc.)
3. Specialty Blocks:
 - a. Paediatrics
 - b. Geriatrics

Each student will be taught these in a different order. Feel free to ask your student their particular schedule for learning these, and if you are able to book in a patient during their FMLE half day that lends themselves to practicing one of these shortly after they have learned it in Clinical Skills that would be a nice learning experience (but not expected or required).

You will find that your student is excited and enthusiastic about any opportunity to interact with patients and will welcome any chance to practice the skills learned in the clinical setting during patient encounters. Positive physical examination findings are a great source of excitement for our learners as they will often have read and learned about them in their classes but have not seen them in clinical encounters. Having the opportunity to share some “pearls of practice” or to help a student understand a physical examination finding is a great experience for both the learner and the teacher. It is a way of giving back to the medical community, sharing your expertise and revitalizing your interest in clinical medicine.

Students are very anxious to practice their acquired clinical skills. They are also thrilled at the opportunity to acquire new clinical skills such as: throat swabs, immunizations, pap smears, urine dips, ear syringing, punch biopsies, fungal scraping, venipuncture, plotting growth on WHO charts, and/or interpretation of lab results (e.g. Framingham score).

The focus of FMLE this year is primarily practicing taking histories, getting clinical exposure, and practicing S.O.A.P. notes.