

Just Kidding Around! Enhancing First Year Medical Student Pediatric Education through Simulation-Based Learning

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Background

First-Year Medical Students at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University participate in a Pediatric Physical Diagnosis course, which previously consisted of a 2-hour Didactic session followed by a half day session in a Pediatric office.

Course feedback suggested students' clinical experiences were variable and inconsistent.

The First Year Pediatric Physical Diagnosis Course was redesigned to incorporate a 2-hour session in the Simulation Lab, where students practiced interviewing caregivers and performing physical exam skills on Pediatric manikins.

The goal was to provide a standardized, immersive, learning experience for students and to provide a foundation of Pediatric History and Physical Exam skills.

Contact Information

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Course Description

The newly designed First Year Pediatric Physical Diagnosis Course included a 30-minute recorded didactic session, introducing students to the Pediatric History and Physical. The students then attended a 2-hour session in the Simulation Lab, where they practiced interviewing caregivers and performing physical exams on Pediatric manikins.

For the Simulation portion of the course, students rotated through three stations:

Newborn Well
visit

Toddler Well visit

Child Sick Visit

Students were given a brief background of the patient and were observed taking the History from a caregiver and examining the manikin patient. Students alternated between participating in the Interview/Physical exam and observing other classmates. Each station concluded with a Debriefing and Discussion session.

The course concluded with a half day session in a Pediatric office, where students were applied their Pediatric History taking and Physical exam skills to live patients.



Outcomes

From the End of course evaluation, 100% of students agreed / strongly agreed that the pediatrics experience in the Simulation Center followed by a session in Clinic helped them feel more comfortable interacting with pediatric patients. In addition, the experience provided them with a greater understanding of assessing developmental milestones in pediatric patients. Both ratings improved by four-percentage points from the previous Class.

COURSE EVALUATION COMMENTS:

It was interactive, interesting, engaging, and the instructors were approachable and gave great feedback.

Pre-video and the debrief at the end of each case were really helpful.

I really liked the structure of the sessions, especially interviewing the patients as a small team. This helped to decrease stress associated with interviewing the patient in front of my classmates and allowed me to learn a lot more because of it. The pediatrician leaders for this session were amazing. It felt like a supportive learning environment, and we were able to ask many questions.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Offer two sessions of the course to provide a smaller group size. This will allow for more intimate instruction and increased engagement from the students.
2. Include more training on physical exam skills and techniques.

