Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

Amy Hayton, MD
Associate Clerkship Director, IM Clerkship

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Vice-Chair for Education & Faculty Development

PLUS . . .

REFLECTION

(Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Workshop – October 4, 2013)
Raymond Wong MD,
Clerkship Director, IM Clerkship

Ray’s First Grandchild
? Future Clerkship Director?

Ilho Kang MD,
Associate Clerkship Director, IM Clerkship

Ilho’s First Child
? Future Clerkship Director?
“Commercial Interest” is defined by the ACCME (www.accme.org) as “any entity producing, marketing, re-selling or distributing health care goods or services consumed by or used on patients.”
Goals and Objectives

- Participate in a sample of our curriculum innovation designed to teach medical students to enhance the quality and depth of their critical reflection.
  - Define and identify the components of critical reflection
  - Practice evaluating the quality of written reflection papers using a previously validated tool, the REFLECT rubric.¹
  - Discuss and “reflect” on the limitations and strengths of teaching and evaluating reflection.
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

Overview: Background & Purpose

Amy Hayton, MD
Associate Clerkship Director, IM Clerkship
Assistant Professor of Medicine

REFLECTION

(Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Workshop – October 4, 2013)
Scrubs Video: “My Old Lady”
(Season 1, Episode 4, Aired October 16, 2001)
Scrubs Video Discussion

- What did JD learn through this patient experience and his reflection about it?
- What methods did JD use as he reflected?
- Have any of you experienced such a reflective moment recently?
- Why does reflection matter?
Why Do Reflection?
The Continuum of Medical Education & Practice

UME
Medical School

GME
Residency

CME
Rest of Career

4 Years

~4 (3-7) Years

30+ Years
Why Do Reflection?


- Develops critical thinking skills and clinical reasoning
- Failure to reflect leads to “physician overconfidence” and diagnostic errors in medicine
- Fosters professionalism
- Improved therapeutic relationship
- Necessary for effective use of feedback
What Is Reflection?
Reflection Defined

“Reflection means letting future behavior be guided by a systematic and critical analysis of past actions and their consequences.” Driessen E: BMJ 2008;336:827

“Critical reflection is the process of analyzing, questioning and reframing an experience in order to make an assessment for purposes of learning and/or improve practice.” Aronson L: Med Teacher 2011;33:200-5
“Deep” versus “Superficial” Reflection

- “Deep reflection is where the learner is trying to understand the meaning of the material and integrates it into previous ideas or reconsiders it into new ideas.”

- “Superficial” reflection is where the learner is concerned to memorize the material and needs to be retained for the moment (at least until the next exam) and does not “file it’ for any lasting purpose.
  - Jenny Moon 2001 Reflection in Higher Educ Learning
How Do We Do Reflection?
Model of Reflection
Boud, Keogh and Walker, 1985

Experiences
Reflective Process
Outcomes

Behavior
Ideas
Feelings

Returning to experience
Utilizing positive feelings
Removing obstructing feelings
Re-evaluating experience

NEW PERSPECTIVE
CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR
ACTION
Components of Reflection

- **Noticing** an event ➔ **Description**
  - **What** happened?
  - Awareness of discomfort / apprehension that may prompt reflection
  - “Recognizing when one’s existing mental model and personal theory is being challenged by an experience” Mezirow J.1981
  - JD was hit by a ton of bricks- this event caught him off-guard “I think I am ready to die”
Components of Reflection

- **Noticing** an event → Description
- Arise from “disorienting dilemmas” - a situation that one cannot resolve using previous problem solving strategies
  - A situation where you did not have the necessary knowledge or skills
  - A situation that went well but you are not sure why?
  - A complex, surprising or clinically uncertain situation
  - A situation where you felt personally or professionally challenged
Components of Reflection

- **Making Meaning** of an event → Analysis
  - Why did it happen?
  - Identify new learning needs by asking:
    - Does anything surprise me about the situation?
      - JD was surprised that someone would choose dying early over living on dialysis
    - Do I have the information or skills to deal with this situation?
      - JD realized he was totally inept to figure out how to “help” this patient with her decision
    - The patient helped JD realize what he needed to learn
Components of Reflection

- **Making Meaning** of an event → Analysis
  - Reflection can be prompted by strong feelings that lead to deeper questioning:
    - What am I feeling and what are my emotions?
      - JD was scared
    - Why do I feel like this?
      - JD realized he was afraid of death as he analyzed his discomfort
    - Are there other situations in my life when I feel the same?
Components of Reflection

- **Learning** → Action Plan
  - What should I do next time?
  - Reflection can confirm something we already knew to be true
  - Reflection can lead to transformative learning-
    Change our understanding, values, actions in the future
  - JD faced his fear of death, received compassion from his patient, understood patient autonomy all through his process of reflection
Experiential Learning Cycle
(Andrea Corney at www.edbatista.com/2007/10/experiential.html)

ACT
Noticing an Event
Facts (What happened?)

APPLY
Action Plan
Future (What will I do differently?)

REFLECT
Reflective Observation
Feelings (What did I experience?)

CONCEPTUALIZE
Making Meaning – Analysis & Learning
Findings (Why did this happen? What did I learn?)
Personal Reflection

- How has reflection helped me?
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

Recognizing Critical Reflection (Small Group Activity)

Amy Hayton, MD
Associate Clerkship Director, IM Clerkship
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Practicing Reflection
(Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Workshop – October 4, 2013)
Small Group Exercise

1. Each group read both versions of the account of the student’s presentation in sequential order.

2. As a group, identify the actual sentences, words or phrases from the written scenarios that are:
   - Description, analysis and action plan

3. Be prepared to present to the larger group the following: *(Please designate a reporter!)*
   - **Group A** present the noticing/description elements as they compare/contrast in all three versions.
   - **Group B** present the analysis elements as they compare and contrast in all three versions.
   - **Group C** present the action plan elements of all three versions as they are similar and different.
Small Groups Working
Components of Reflection

- **Description - Group A**
  - May arise from a “disorienting dilemma”
  - Describes the triggering event

- **Analysis - Group B**
  - Why did it happen? Explores motives for behaviors.
  - May be prompted by strong feelings that lead to deeper questioning?

- **Action Plan - Group C**
  - What should I do next time?
  - Confirm something we know or change our understanding, values, actions
Large Group Reports
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

Grading Written Reflection Papers
(Small Group Activity)

Lawrence Loo, MD
Vice-Chair for Education & Faculty Development
Professor of Medicine

Reflection
(Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Workshop – October 4, 2013)
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

Introduction of a new evaluation tool – REFLECT RUBRIC

Hands on experience of grading student reflection papers using REFLECT RUBRIC

Limitation of REFLECT RUBRIC
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

Fostering and Evaluating Reflective Capacity in Medical Education: Developing the REFLECT Rubric for Assessing Reflective Writing

Hedy S. Wald, PhD, Jeffrey M. Borkan, MD, PhD, Julie Scott Taylor, MD, MSc, David Anthony, MD, MSc, and Shmuel P. Reis, MD, MHPE

The authors developed a new evaluative tool that can be effectively applied to assess students’ reflective levels and assist with the process of providing individualized written feedback to guide reflective capacity promotion.

Method

Following a comprehensive search and analysis of the literature, the authors developed an analytic rubric through repeated iterative cycles of development, including empiric testing and

Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University students’ 2009 and 2010 RW narratives with determination of intraclass correlations (ICCs).

Results

The final rubric, the Reflection Evaluation for Learners’ Enhanced Competencies Tool (REFLECT), consisted of four reflective capacity levels ranging from habitual action to critical reflection, with focused criteria for each level. The rubric also evaluated RW for transformative

REFLECT iteration analysis.

Conclusions

The REFLECT is a rigorously developed, theory-informed analytic rubric, demonstrating adequate interrater reliability, face validity, feasibility, and acceptability. The REFLECT rubric is a reflective analysis innovation supporting development of a reflective clinician via formative assessment and enhanced crafting of faculty feedback to reflective narratives.
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”  
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Oct. 4, 2013)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflection Level</th>
<th>Non-Reflective</th>
<th>Thoughtful Action</th>
<th>Reflection</th>
<th>Critical Reflection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing Spectrum</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superficial descriptive writing approach (fact reporting, vague impressions)</td>
<td>Elaborated descriptive writing approach and impressions without reflection</td>
<td>Attempting to understand, question, or analyze the event</td>
<td>Exploration and critique of assumptions, values, beliefs, and/or biases and the consequences of action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writer partially present</td>
<td>Writer partially present</td>
<td>Writer largely or fully present</td>
<td>Writer largely or fully present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sense of Writer Presence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No description</td>
<td>Absent or weak description</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Full description that includes multiple perspectives, exploring alternative explanations, and challenging assumptions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attending to Emotions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little or no recognition or attention to</td>
<td>Recognition but no exploration or attention to</td>
<td>Recognition, exploration, and attention to</td>
<td>Recognition, exploration, attention to and gain of emotional insight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis &amp; Meaning Making</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Little or unclear</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

REFLECT Scoring Sheet
(Wald HS et al: Academic Medicine 2012; 87:41-50)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflection Level</th>
<th>Non-Reflective 1</th>
<th>Thoughtful Action 2</th>
<th>Reflection 3</th>
<th>Critical Reflection 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Spectrum</td>
<td>Superficial descriptive writing approach (fact reporting, vague impressions) without reflection</td>
<td>Elaborated descriptive writing approach and impressions without reflection</td>
<td>Movement beyond reporting or descriptive writing to reflection (i.e., attempting to understand, question, or analyze the exploration and critique of assumptions, values, biases, and/or biases and the consequences of outcomes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructions for Raters:

The process of applying the REFLECT rubric to a reflective narrative consists of four steps:

1) **Read the entire narrative.**
2) **Fragmentation:** Zoom in to details (phrases/sentences) of the narrative to assess the presence and quality of all criteria. Determine which level each criterion represents.
3) **Gestalt:** Zoom out to consider overall gestalt of the narrative (while taking into consideration the detailed analysis of Step 2). Determine which level the narrative as a whole achieves. (If the Critical Reflection is achieved, determine whether either or both learning outcomes - transformative or confirmatory learning - were also achieved.)
4) **Defend** the assignment of level and learning outcomes with examples from the text. Do not “read between the lines.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Reflection</th>
<th>Non-Reflective 1</th>
<th>Thoughtful Action 2</th>
<th>Reflection 3</th>
<th>Critical Reflection 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper #3</td>
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</table>
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”  
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Oct 4, 2013)

- **Research Design:**
  - Two prompts ⇒ 2 reflection papers per student
    - **First open-ended prompt:** Please write a 1-2 page typed Reflection Paper regarding interactions you have had with patients. Ideas for the theme include:
      - 1) The impact a certain patient had on you or your impact on a patient,
      - 2) some personal lesson learned,
      - 3) some struggle a patient had to endure.
  - There are no right or wrong topics for this exercise. To pass you must turn your assignment in on time.
Small Groups Activity

1. Read reflection paper #1 and #2

2. Grade those two papers independently using REFLECT RUBRIC

3. Record your score on the scoring sheet

Compare your score with others and discuss
Reach common consensus
Come up with one final level as a group
Small Groups working
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”  
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Oct. 4, 2013)

<table>
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<th>Ilho Kang</th>
<th>Larry Loo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #3</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compare your score with others and discuss.  
Reach common consensus.  
Come up with one final level as a group.
Small Groups Activity

1. Read reflection paper #3

2. Grade this paper independently using REFLECT RUBRIC

3. Put down your score in your scoring sheet

Compare your score with others and discuss Reach common consensus Come up with one final level as a group
Large Group Discussion
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: WGEA May 3-7, 2013)

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<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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Common Consensus = Level 4 (Critical Reflection)
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

Summary Findings of the IM Clerkship Experience
(June 2012 – June 2013)

Lawrence Loo, MD
Vice-Chair for Education & Faculty Development
Professor of Medicine

REFLECTION
(Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Workshop 104 – May 6, 2013)
Do you require students to complete a reflective writing assignment during your internal medicine clerkship? (N=86/107 - 80% response)
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Oct. 4, 2013)

- **Problem Statement & Background:**
  - While many studies have examined the importance of reflection in the professional development of a physician, there is a paucity of empiric evidence for particular interventions to enhance the quality or “depth” of reflection among medical students.
  - To facilitate the development of written critical reflection, a new curriculum enhancement was introduced during the third year of medical school.
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: CDIM Oct. 4, 2013)

- **90-Minute Curriculum Reflection**

  - Four minute *video* from the TV show *Scrubs*, highlighting a young doctor’s reflection experience of a patient facing death.
  - **Large group discussion** of the key concepts and core components of critical reflection.
  - **Small group interactive exercise** where students compared and contrasted three essays portraying different levels of reflection.
  - A faculty presenter shared a **personal reflection** critical to her own professional development.
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: WGEA May 3-7, 2013)

- Research Design:
  - Historic Group Comparison*
    - Written reflection papers from the current academic year July 2012 – June 2013
    - Compared to written reflection papers from the past 3 academic years matched to the same month of the academic year
  - Two prompts ➔ 2 reflection papers per student / 10 week rotation
    - First prompt: Open-ended
      - Second prompt: Directed to address the hidden curriculum

Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”  
(Loma Linda University IM Clerkship: WGEA – May 3-7, 2013)

- **Research Design:**
  - **Written Reflection Papers**
    - Four faculty reviewers “graded” each reflection papers using the *REFLECT* rubric
    - Faculty were “blinded” to the names of the students and the year written for the first open-ended prompt
    - Discrepancies in grading were resolved by consensus
    - Faculty piloted the process with 30 past reflection papers (not included in the final analysis)

  - **Primary Outcome** - “Critical Reflection” level 4 using the *REFLECT* rubric*

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Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”  
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine: WGEA May 3-7, 2013)

- **Research Design:**
  - **Statistical Analysis:**
    - **Primary Outcome:** non-parametric tests using Mann-Whitney U test
    - **Inter-rater reliability:** kappa statistic
  - **Statistical Significance:**
    - Standard $p \leq 0.05$
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine:)

- **Results - Descriptive:** $N = 310$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflection Level</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reflection Interpretation</strong></td>
<td>Nonreflective</td>
<td>Thoughtful Action</td>
<td>Reflection</td>
<td>Critical Reflection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Total</td>
<td>1.94%</td>
<td>24.19%</td>
<td>43.55%</td>
<td>30.32%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine)

- **Results**: Primary Outcome – Level IV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflection Level</th>
<th>1 (Nonreflective)</th>
<th>2 (Thoughtful Action)</th>
<th>3 (Reflection)</th>
<th>4 (Critical Reflection)</th>
<th>Sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Educational Intervention Count (%)</strong></td>
<td>4 (2.6%)</td>
<td>56 (36.1%)</td>
<td>74 (47.7%)</td>
<td>21 (13.6%)</td>
<td>155 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-Educational Intervention Count (%)</strong></td>
<td>2 (1.3%)</td>
<td>19 (12.3%)</td>
<td>61 (39.4%)</td>
<td>73 (47.1%)</td>
<td>155 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine)

- Results: Inter-rater Reliability (kappa statistic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10-week Junior Medical Student Rotation</th>
<th>Kappa Statistic*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A (June – August 2012)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B (August – November 2012)</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C (November – January 2013)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group D (January – April 2013)</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group E (April – June 2013)</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kappa statistic interpretation*
Agreement Description

\[ K = 0 \] – “poor”
\[ = 0 \] – 0.20 “slight”
\[ = 0.21 \] – 0.40 “fair”
\[ = 0.41 \] – 0.60 “moderate”
\[ = 0.61 \] – 0.80 “substantial”
\[ = 0.80 \] – 1.0 “almost perfect”

Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine)

- Results: Blinding of “old” (O) versus “present” (P) written reflection papers

Overall Percentage Agreement = 59%
(Overall percentage agreement expected by chance = 50%)  
\[ p > 0.05 \]

Kappa (K) statistic = 0.17

<table>
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<th>Kappa statistic interpretation*</th>
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<tr>
<td>( K = 0 )</td>
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Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”
(IM Clerkship, Loma Linda University School of Medicine)

- **Interpretation & Conclusions:**

  - **Conclusion:** Our 90-minute educational intervention improved “critical reflection” (level 4 of the REFLECT rubric) by junior medical students.

  - **Strengths of Study:**
    - Blinding of faculty graders was successful.
    - Comparison group pre- and post-intervention.

  - **Limitations of Study:**
    - Historical comparison group (not a true randomized trial).
    - Low Inter-rater reliability of faculty graders when using the REFLECT rubric.
Teaching Medical Students to Reflect “Deeper”

END

! Thank You !

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