Direct Observation Week:
Overcoming Barriers to Direct Observation of Residents

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Background
- GME is now Competency Based
- Residents must achieve milestones to demonstrate progress
- Direct observation necessary to capture achievement of milestones
- Barriers to Direct Observation
  - Faculty time
  - Clinical Space
  - Resident Autonomy

Aim
- Develop direct observation process for IM residency
- Overcome barriers

Program Description
- Set aside four weeks per year for “Direct Observation Week”
  - Extensive promotion/advertisement to faculty and residents
  - Back-up faculty come for ½ of clinic session to provide coverage for observing faculty
- Focus on patient counseling portion of the interaction
  - Starting a new medicine
  - Behavior change
  - Cancer screening

Evaluation
- Survey response rate 58%
- 91% of responders received direct observation

Faculty Evaluation
- Survey response rate 65%
- Mean 10 observations/faculty (2-25)
  - 62% reported that direct observation positively impacted patient care
  - 54% observed something surprising
  - 76% found back up faculty useful

Resident Evaluation
- Survey faculty and residents: participation, perceptions, satisfaction with observation
  - 91% of responders received direct observation

Example Evaluation Form

Setting
- Location: Resident Continuity Clinic
- University Based (TKC)
- VA Based (Red)
- Participants:
  - IM and Medicine/Pediatrics Residents
  - GIM Faculty
- Time: Academic year 2013-2014

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