

# Pediatric Residency Program



## Monthly Newsletter

October 2020



DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY



### HOW TO DO A GOOD PRACTICE STACER

(Structured Assessment of Clinical Encounter Report)

#### Make it Formal!

Practice STACERs have 2 purposes for the residents: To provide feedback on an overall history, physical and presentation AND to prepare for the final STACER in PGY3. This must be passed before writing the Royal College certification exams. Make it formal so it is a true preparation for the final STACER.

#### Set-up

- 1) Book in advance – During a rotation is best, so book before or on day 1 of the rotation
- 2) Patient selection – Should have at least 2 problems, is ideally known to you
- 3) Plan to observe the **whole** assessment – book off 1.5 hours for the process
- 4) Use the STACER checklist provided and make notes as you observe
- 5) Follow the prescribed timing – 60 minutes for history and physical; 5 minutes to gather thoughts; 10 minutes to present. Ensure the resident understands these expectations prior to starting.

#### Feedback is key

- 1) Focus your feedback on the history, physical, presentation summary and differential (not the management plan) because these are the items assessed on the final STACER.
- 2) For PGY2 to PGY4 residents, assess at the level of a general pediatrician. This the standard for the final STACER and helps them to prepare. For PGY1 assess at the level of a PGY1.
- 3) Carefully use all items on the checklist that are relevant to the patient/problem. If a checklist item is not relevant, indicate not applicable.
- 4) Before reviewing your assessment with the resident you may need to take 5 minutes to go over and finalize the assessment form.
- 5) For relevant items not performed at the expected level, provide reasoning and ways to improve.
- 6) Provide verbal feedback and an overall assessment of whether the resident's performance on this task would be consistent with a pass on the final STACER.
- 7) Provide written feedback, which can be handwritten clearly on the form or dictated and appended to the form.

**Don't forget to send the completed form to the program director with a copy to the resident!**

#### STACER Form Links

[Instructions \(Preamble\)](#)

[Form](#)



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