



Student Autonomy: When to Let Go!

Student autonomy is a challenge for the preceptor. For the student to successfully complete their clinical objectives, you must allow the student to be autonomous.

The Process of Letting Go:

- Assure yourself of the student's competence to perform each aspect of patient management and then allow the student to perform those aspects independently.
- Monitor progress through documentation, reports from the student, and responses you obtain from patients.
- Discuss and negotiate the letting go process with the student.
- Find out what type of support from you will contribute to the student's growing independence.

But most important key in letting go is that you must be assured that the student will recognize the need for information or assistance and actively seek it from you or whatever resource is appropriate.

Indicators of Student Readiness for Increased Responsibility

<p>Intuitive Indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mutual increase in comfort, almost intuitive, a mutual decision. • Trust is built between student and preceptor. • Preceptor trusts the student not to get in over their head and to be responsible for their own actions and decisions.
<p>Indicators Related to Student Performance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student proves that they are thorough in their work and do not miss the important things • The preceptor does not have to review every detail with student. • Student has performed satisfactory physical assessment skills and rechecks as necessary. • Student provides accurate clinical presentation. • Student demonstrates that they have in-depth data bases. Student can recognize normal from abnormal in meeting the patient's needs. • Student shows ability to tie in past experience with new skills and apply them to new scenarios. • Student knows their learning needs. • Student seeks assistance when needed and asks appropriate questions.
<p>Indicators Related to Student Initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student is a self-starter • The student copes with an unstructured setting and adapts to changes. • Student asks for more challenging experience, exhibits confidence.