

The One-Minute Preceptor Five Microskills Method

1. Get a commitment

Examples:

- What do you think is going on with this patient?
- What investigations do you feel are indicated?
- What do you think needs to be accomplished on this visit?
- What do you want to do?

2. Probe for supporting evidence

Examples:

- What are the major findings that lead to your conclusion?
- What else did you consider?
- What made you choose that particular treatment

3. Teach general rules

- What is the "take home" message from this experience?
- "In situations like this it is important to..."
- "The key features of this illness are..."
- Keep it brief and focused on identified issues
- Avoid anecdotes and idiosyncratic preferences

4. Reinforce what was done right

- Tell the learner what they did right
- Be specific
- "When you did this it worked well" or "patient responded..."

5. Correct errors

- Consider appropriate time and place
- Start with learner self-evaluation
- Be specific
- Consider language – "not best" rather than "bad"
- "Next time this happens, try this..."

Adapted from McMaster PBSG-Ed Module "Time Efficient Teaching Strategies"

Neher J et al. A five-step "microskills" model of clinical teaching. J of Am Board Fam Pract. 1992; 5(4): 419-424.

