

Logging Your Patient Encounters During the Clerkship

As in every core clinical clerkship, we require that you log your patient encounters, using the Patient Tracker. Logging encounters requires some energy and time on your part, but we believe strongly that it can enhance your educational experience during this clerkship in at least three ways:

1. Logging encounters allows you to track your progress toward achieving the learning objectives of the clerkship. The quantitative criteria, which have been developed by your faculty in this clerkship, are the clearest way of communicating the clinical learning objectives for this clerkship. By logging your clinical experience, you can track your progress toward achieving these learning objectives of this clerkship. This is the essence of the self-directed learner, i.e., to *reflect* on your experience and to seek learning opportunities that help to fulfill your personal objectives.
2. Tracking one's learning and professional activity is a professional behavior that will be asked of you for the remainder of your career. Outstanding clinicians routinely review their clinical practices in a systematic way that allows them to improve the delivery of care to their patients. Most licensure, specialty certifications and recertifications require documentation of patient care experience. Reflecting on and improving one's practice is a core competency of residency training programs, referred to as '*Practice Based Learning and Improvement.*'
3. Logging patient encounters provides the clerkship director with the data to compare site and learning experiences and to improve the clerkship for you and future students. This data is reviewed not only in this department, but across the entire curriculum, and by national medical school accreditation bodies such as the LCME.

No clerkship in the JHU SOM curriculum fails a student for not meeting the quantitative criteria for the clerkship, although each student's experience is reviewed at the end of the clerkship. Your encounters will also be reviewed at the midpoint of the clerkship, however, by Dr. Hueppchen to ensure that no adjustment in your experience or your approach to learning in the clerkship is needed. The integrity and timeliness of documentation of your patient encounters may be considered a measure of your professionalism during this clerkship.