Clinical supervisor evaluations during general surgery clerkships

Clerkship performance is commonly evaluated by consultant surgeons who seldom supervise medical students directly. In contrast, surgical resident and interns frequently supervise students and provide essential teaching but are not tasked with evaluating them. A prospective comparison study was conducted to investigate the accuracy of General Surgery clerkship performance evaluations by supervisors of varying seniorities.

Dissemination

Academic journal articles, book chapters

Yu TC, Wheeler BRL, Hill AG. Clinical supervisor evaluations during general surgery clerkships. Medical Teacher 2011;33:e479-e484

Presentations at international conferences

8th Annual Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC), 26-30 January 2011, Singapore

Australia and New Zealand Medical Education Associated (ANZAME) Annual Conference, 13-16 July 2010, Townsville, Australia

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Congress, 4-7 May 2010, Perth, Australia

Funding

This research was supported by the South Auckland Clinical School, The University of Auckland.

Implementation

As a result of this study, amendments have been made to the 4th year General Surgery clerkship performance evaluation system Middlemore Hospital. Instead of Clinical Supervisor Evaluations being completed only by consultant surgeons, students are now also able to ask residents for an evaluation of their clerkship performance. At least one of the two Clinical Supervisor Evaluation forms can now be completed by a resident from either of the two surgical teams a student is attached to during their six-week clerkship.