

RIME with Reasons

The R-I-M-E model developed by Pangaro is a proven and reliable way to descriptively evaluate medical students. The technique has been successfully adapted to a clerkship in obstetrics and gynecology.

RIME is a classification measure of a student's progression from that of a Reporter, to Interpreter, to Manager/Educator. Most medical students should be able to demonstrate they can reliably gather the facts on patients and present this information in an organized manner. It is expected that the students will progressively synthesize this information, learning to connect signs and symptoms with tests, and to develop a differential diagnosis. The RIME model has particular merit for providing feedback to medical students on their performance. Certainly all clerkships should customarily give students an opportunity to assess their own performance and to receive feedback from their teachers, notably near the midpoint of the clerkship, such that students know how they are doing and have the time and specifics for improvement.

The RIME model can also change the teaching culture as we get in the habit of asking questions of medical students that will identify where they are on this learning continuum. Questions that prompt students to think about what they are reporting will encourage them to recognize what is important and to make the learning connections. Students value questioning, especially when we ask their opinion and ask them to formulate a plan. Active questioning will give them the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, reasoning and management skills.

In this manner, the teacher can then help students progress up the RIME ladder.

Sources

1 Pangaro L. A new vocabulary and other innovations for improving descriptive in-training evaluations. Acad Med. 74:1203-7.

2 Ogburn T, Espey E. The R-I-M-E method for evaluation of medical students on an obstetrics and gynecology clerkship. *AmJ Obstet Gynecol.* 2003;189:666-9.

3 Alguire P, Dewitt D, Pinsky L, Ferenchick G. *Teaching in your office: A guide to instructing medical students and residents*, p.48. Philadelphia: American College of Physicians; 2001.