

AB150. SOH21AS110. Medical student's evaluation of surgical clinical placement programme within a private Irish hospital facility

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Background: Medical students in Ireland predominantly attend publically funded facilities for clinical placements. Historically private hospitals have been less likely to participate in clinical education of undergraduate medical students because of concerns over patient satisfaction, quality of care, workload, costs and liability. This study aims to review the experience and feedback of students attending surgical placements at Beacon Hospital in Dublin from 2015 to 2020.

Methods: A retrospective review of feedback from all students attending our institution over 5 years was performed. Students rotated through one week general surgery and orthopaedic placements. Data obtained using a simple questionnaire which students completed at the end of their placement and recorded via Microsoft Excel spreadsheets including the following domains: hospital orientation, objective setting, tutor supervision/support, feedback, learning resources/opportunities.

Results: A total of 578 students rotated through the hospital over a 5-year period and feedback was elicited from 561 (n=561) All students (100%) received hospital orientation and 80% (n=450) agreed or strongly agreed that their placement objectives and daily workload was clear. Seventy-eight percent (n=438) strongly agreed that they felt supported. Fifty-nine percent (n=272) felt they were 'given the opportunity to build upon their skills' and 'learned a lot'

while on placement. While student comments from earlier placements (2015–2016) included requirements for more robust tutorial support and increased frequency of bedside tutorials, later feedback (2017–2020) acknowledged the improvements in tutorial structure and format.

Conclusions: This qualitative review demonstrates the success of a private hospital clinical education programme and should support the rationale to include private hospital as key student clinical placement sites.

Keywords: Medical students; general surgery; orthopaedics; medical education; clinical placements

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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