

28 How do Emergency Medicine Interns Affect Medical Student Clerkship Experience in the Emergency Department?

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Background: As Emergency Medicine (EM) becomes increasingly recognized; more schools are offering EM clerkships to 3rd and 4th year medical students. Studies have examined how attendings affect the medical student experience and how medical students affect attending productivity. However, if and how residents affect the medical student experience has not been examined.

Objectives: This study was designed to determine whether the presence of EM interns affected medical student experience during their clerkship.

Methods: At our medical school, EM is a required fourth year clerkship. Students are asked to complete a 47-question survey about their experience at the end of their rotation. Questions were based on a 5-point Likert scale with 1 being the most negative and 5 being the most positive. The control group completed surveys in 2009-2010, before our emergency medicine residency started. The study group completed surveys in 2010-2011 when intern residents were present in the ED. Interns did not have a formal role in medical student education.

Results: 84 control group students completed the survey and 71 study group students completed the survey. Of the 47 questions answered, all but three questions had lower scores in the study group. For 18 questions, the drop in score was statistically significant ($p < 0.0103-0.049$). The 3 questions that scored higher in the study group were all significantly higher ($p < 0.00001$) and addressed staff professionalism including specifically residents.

Conclusions: It was surprising to find that medical student satisfaction with the Emergency Department experience was statistically lower after the residency started despite residents having no direct role in medical student education. However, residents likely competed with students for attending teaching time, patients, and procedures. The authors believe that this perceived competition is responsible for the decline in medical student satisfaction.