

Bedside Teaching
Residents as Teachers
University of Maryland School of Medicine

You will have the opportunity to teach and learn “at the bedside” in many settings. In addition to morning bedside rounds with the entire team, you also have the opportunity to bring students with you to the bedside at other times to show them physical findings.

Literature supports the value of bedside teaching. Although in multiple studies, physicians without experience in bedside teaching preferred to present cases away from the bedside¹, after experiencing bedside teaching, most students and residents want more of it.² Most patients prefer to be present when their cases are presented, and find that it increases their understanding of their medical problems.³

Bedside Teaching Strategies⁴:

1. Introduce everyone present at the bedside.
2. When presenting cases at the bedside, be respectful of the patient and their family and be aware of the vocabulary you use. Translate if necessary!
3. Allow the patient the opportunity to clarify the case presentation and to ask questions.
4. Demonstrate key portions of the physical examination.
5. Teaching about the disease process at the bedside allows the inpatient team and the patient to learn.
6. Making treatment plans at the bedside keeps the patient informed and includes their input.

¹Kroenke,K. Attending Rounds: A Survey of Physicians Attitudes. JGIM Int Med. 1990; 5:229-233.

²Nair BR. Student and Patient Perspectives on Bedside Teaching. Medical Education 1997; 31:341-346.

³Wang-Cheng, et al. Bedside Case Presentations: Why Patients Like Them But Learners Don't. JGIM Int Med 1989; 4:284-287.

⁴<http://wichita.kumc.edu/strategies/bedside>