Medical Student Teaching: Online Modules for Inpatient Pediatrics Rotation

As a medical student there are numerous hours of “down time” on inpatient rotations. There are scheduled lectures, however, the intermittent and often more valuable teaching time on the wards is fragmented and inconsistent at best. In order to enhance the inpatient medical student learning experience, online case presentations were designed so that teaching could be done via an electronic platform during free time. The current generation of medical students is relying more on electronic devices and less on printed copies of books, articles, etc. The development of online pediatrics cases for medical students allows them to learn general pediatrics topics that are quick, high yield, and easily accessible while rotating through the hospital. Eight cases are provided via a login to Socrative.com; four during each week of the inpatient rotation. Each case begins with a chief complaint then asks the student the same five questions involving obtaining a history, developing a differential, planning the next step in management, solidifying a diagnosis, and recommending the best treatment. With the online platform, there are various forms of questions that can be asked: multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. Furthermore, explanations to the answer choices can be given. Links to associated articles/guidelines are presented at the conclusion of each case. Scores and involvement can be tracked. Feedback is obtained and changes are implemented as needed. Students are encouraged to discuss cases with the pediatrics residents and clerkship director or use in combination with actual patient presentations to further enhance their education.