

Student Benchmarks

This is a week-by-week description of a typical student progression while at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The benchmarks are cumulative, so all benchmarks from each week apply for future weeks. This is intended to be a guideline outlining typical student benchmarks, so that we can better support students and Fieldwork Educators during their clinical student rotation. These benchmarks are subject to change based on student experience and are intended to be used as an estimate of typical student progression.

Assistance: FWE is present and assisting with a portion of the item

Supervision: FWE is providing verbal feedback and cueing

Entry level: FWE is available to assist as needed, but student is functioning without significant oversight

Week 1 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 2-5 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes chart reviews with fieldwork educator (FWE) and observe/assist with documentation • Completes contact note with assistance
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins completing occupational profiles/social history and objective measures (ROM, MMT, brief cognitive assessments) with patients with assistance • Observes and assists with evaluations and treatment sessions
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrives to fieldwork on time, wears appropriate scrub uniform, and communicates any necessary changes to schedule • Initiates calling RN before and after therapy sessions with assistance • Completes weekly summary form and reviews with FWE

Week 2 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 3-5 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates ability to locate and identify pertinent information from chart review (i.e. Vital signs, lab values, imaging, activity orders, therapy orders, primary and consulting teams notes, use of care teams, previous admission notes etc.) with assistance • Completes all components of evaluation and treatment documentation with assistance
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates appropriate donning and doffing of PPE for isolation precautions prior to and following each session • Initiates/demonstrates awareness of safety measures during sessions (gait belt, locking chair, use of chair/bed alarm) • Initiates low complexity evaluations and treatment sessions with assistance • Demonstrates appropriate and consistent use of gait belt during patient mobilization independently • Initiates conversation with FWE re: discharge recommendations
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates calling RN prior to and following all patient sessions with independence • Demonstrates and carries out NM values during patient care (integrity, excellences, patients first, and teamwork)

Week 3 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 4-6 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates ability to locate and identify pertinent information from chart review with assistance • Completes all components of evaluation and treatment documentation with assistance
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies need for communication with medical team to clarify orders/imaging as needed • Student leads low complexity evaluations and familiar treatment sessions with assistance • Student establishes discharge recommendations with assistance • Demonstrates ability to set up chair alarm independently • Student demonstrates ability to perform safe room set-up with assistance • Adheres to any weight-bearing precautions independently
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversations with PT re: discharge recommendations and patient presentation with assistance from FWE

Week 4 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 4-6 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to locate and identify pertinent information from chart review with supervision to identify any errors • Documents evaluation and treatment sessions with assistance
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student leads low complexity evaluations and familiar treatment sessions with supervision • Student leads moderate complexity evaluations and novel treatment sessions with assistance • Verbalizes appropriate plan for upgrading and downgrading the intervention and assessment with assistance • Student demonstrates ability to perform safe room set-up with supervision • Safely manages 2 lines or fewer with assistance • Identifies discharge recommendations with assistance
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversations with PT re: discharge recommendations and patient presentation with supervision

Week 5 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 4-6 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates ability to locate and identify pertinent information from chart review with supervision for occasional errors • Documents evaluation and treatment notes with supervision • Completes evaluation and treatment documentation in a timely manner • Identifies appropriate billing codes and rationale with assistance
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads low complexity evaluations and familiar treatment sessions with supervision • Leads moderate complexity evaluations and novel treatment sessions with assistance • Verbalizes appropriate plan for upgrading and downgrading the intervention and assessment with assistance • Demonstrates ability to perform safe room set-up with independence • Safely manages 2 lines or fewer with supervision • Identifies discharge recommendations with assistance
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversations with PT re: discharge recommendations and patient presentation with supervision • Initiates conversation with interdisciplinary team re: discharge recommendations and/or patient's appropriateness for therapy with assistance

Week 6 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 5-6 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates ability to locate and identify pertinent information from chart review independently • Completes evaluation documentation with <4 corrections • Complete treatment documentation with <3 corrections • Identifies appropriate billing codes and rationale with assistance • Completes evaluation and treatment documentation in a timely manner
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads low complexity evaluations and familiar treatment sessions with supervision • Leads mod complexity evaluations and novel treatment sessions with assistance • Student leads high complexity evaluations with assistance • Verbalizes appropriate plan for upgrading and downgrading the intervention and assessment with assistance • Safely manages 2 lines or fewer with independence • Identifies discharge recommendations with supervision
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversations with PT re: discharge recommendations and patient presentation with independence • Initiates conversation with interdisciplinary team re: discharge recommendations and/or appropriateness for therapy with assistance • Completes midterm evaluation, both FWE and student complete evaluation independently and discuss together.

	FWE submits completed midterm evaluation at end of the week.
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Week 7 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 5-6 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes evaluation documentation with <3 errors • Completes treatment documentation with <2 errors • Identifies appropriate billing codes and rationale with supervision • Completes evaluation and treatment documentation in a timely manner
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student leads low complexity evaluations and familiar treatment sessions with independence • Student leads moderate complexity evaluations and treatment sessions with assistance • Student leads high complexity evaluations with assistance • Verbalizes appropriate plan for upgrading and downgrading the intervention and assessment with supervision • Student demonstrates ability to perform line management (>2 lines) with supervision • Identifies discharge recommendations with supervision
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversation with interdisciplinary team re: discharge recommendations and/or appropriateness for therapy with supervision

Week 8 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 6-7 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes evaluation documentation with <3 errors • Completes treatment documentation with <2 errors • Identifies appropriate billing codes and rationale with independence
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student leads moderate and high complexity evaluations and treatment sessions with assistance • Verbalizes appropriate plan for upgrading and downgrading the intervention and assessment with independence • Student demonstrates ability to perform line management (>2 lines) with supervision • Identifies discharge recommendations with independence • Initiates changes in discharge recommendations as clinically appropriate with assistance
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversation with interdisciplinary team re: discharge recommendations and/or appropriateness for therapy with independence

Week 9 & 10 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 6-8 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete evaluation documentation with 2-3 errors • Complete treatment documentation with 1-2 errors
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student leads moderate complexity evaluations and treatment sessions with supervision • Student leads high complexity evaluations and treatment sessions with assistance • Implements appropriate plan for upgrading and downgrading the intervention and assessment with supervision • Student demonstrates ability to perform line management (>2 lines) at entry level • Initiates changes in discharge recommendations as clinically appropriate with supervision
Professional Development Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversations with interdisciplinary team re: complex discharge planning (as appropriate) with supervision • Prepares in-service to service line which includes evidence-based practice

Week 11 & 12 Benchmarks	
Caseload Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student carries 7-9 patients
Documentation Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete evaluation documentation with independence • Complete treatment documentation with independence
Clinical Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student leads moderate & high complexity evaluations treatment sessions at entry level
Communication Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates conversations with interdisciplinary team re: complex discharge planning (as appropriate) at entry level • Presents in-service to service line which includes evidence-based practices and shares relevant materials with clinicians • Student completes Fieldwork Educator and Site Feedback form provided by student coordinators (week 12) • Completes final evaluation, both FWE and student complete evaluation independently and discuss together. FWE submits completed final evaluation at end of the week (week 12)