

Perioperative Clerkship Design for Students with Physical Disabilities: A Model for Implementation

Rosa Malloy-Post¹, Teresa S Jones^{1,2,3}, Paul Montero^{1,3}, Ross Schockley^{2,3}, Daniel R Beck⁴, Nathaniel J Brown⁴, Granville L Lloyd^{2,4}, Jennifer Adams^{1,5}, Lisa Meeks^{1,6}

¹University of Colorado School of Medicine, 13001 E 17th Place, Aurora, Colorado 80045

² Department of Surgery, Rocky Mountain Regional Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 1700 N Wheeling St, Aurora Colorado 80045

³Department of Surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine, 12631 E 17th Ave, Aurora Colorado 80045

⁴Department of Anesthesia, Rocky Mountain Regional Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 1700 N Wheeling St, Aurora Colorado 80045

⁵Denver Health Medical Center, 77 Bannock St, Denver Colorado 80204

⁶Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine, 13001 E 17th Place, Aurora Colorado 80045

Correspondence:

Rosa Malloy-Post

1960 West 47th Ave, Denver CO 80211

646 207 0283 rosa.malloy-post@cuanschutz.edu

OBJECTIVE: Disability inclusion is an important and growing area of focus for medical education that may be stymied by stereotypes about disabilities, lack of knowledge about accommodations for students with physical disabilities, or outdated technical standards that preclude participation of people with mobility disabilities. To support the inclusion of students with physical disability in surgical clerkships, we describe a proactive, progressive approach to

the accommodations process for a student with a thoracic spinal cord injury entering a surgical clerkship.

DESIGN: Working proactively, medical school leadership, disability professionals and the clerkship team collaborated on the development of reasonable accommodations for a student with a thoracic spinal cord injury entering a surgical clerkship.

SETTING: University of Colorado, Department of Surgery and Department of Medical Education, Aurora, CO.

PARTICIPANTS: A third-year medical student and faculty from the medical school and surgical clerkship leaders.

RESULTS: An M3 student with a thoracic spinal cord injury successfully completed an eight-week surgical clerkship completing all required procedural and clinical skills utilizing reasonable accommodation. The student achieved a grade of honors for the rotation.

CONCLUSION: Early communication and planning for disability-related adjustments are critical to ensure an accessible experience for students with physical disabilities. The addition of a student with a disability adds to a better understanding of inclusive practices for surgical education and adds to the diversity of thought and experience for the medical education community.