

Promoting Autonomy in the Clinical Environment

FacDev_{in 5} KEY TAKEAWAYS



Watch the FacDev in 5 Video featuring Dr. Nicole Christian, Associate Professor, and Associate Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Tips to maximize autonomy and supervision.

1

Get to Know Your Learner

Ask about past experiences, goals, and gaps to tailor your support from the start.

2

Gradually Loosen the Reins

As skills grow, offer more responsibility—start close, then step back as confidence builds.

3

Let Them Take the Lead

Have learners explain decisions to build ownership and gauge their need for supervision.

4

Supervise from a Distance when Ready

Step back as competence grows, but stay flexible and ready to step in when challenges arise.



DIVE DEEPER

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[Allen M., et al. The educational role of autonomy in medical training: A scoping review \(J Surg Res 2019\).](#)

[Burgis J.C., et al. Resident perceptions of autonomy in a complex tertiary care environment improve when supervised by hospitalists \(Hosp Pediatr. 2012\).](#)

[Carbo A.R., Huang G.C. Promoting clinical autonomy in medical learners \(Clin Teach 2019\).](#)

