Students will complete a SOAP note on one patient encounter (return visit or initial evaluation). Even though your documentation system most likely does not follow a SOAP note format completely, we are encouraging students to use this format as a way for them to practice and understand the basic components of a physical therapist’s daily note or initial evaluation. It is fine if you would like the students to document using your own EMR system or documentation method if that makes it easier for you to give feedback to the students.

Feedback can be given individually or as a team. Many CIs have found themes in the notes from past students and a team forum for feedback was effective and stimulated good discussion regarding principles of documentation specific to that setting or patient population.

Areas for feedback that you may want to cover:

* + Did the note convey what actually happened during the session?
  + Are there areas or activities that were missing?
  + Did the students include patient response somewhere in the note?
  + Is the plan comprehensive (i.e. does it go beyond “continue current POC”)
  + Is the objective information included only in the objective section?
  + Does the assessment section repeat already documented information?
  + Does the note stay objective without judgment or emotion?
  + Does the assessment section indicate the need for skilled intervention/PT?