

MGH PT and OT Clinical Education Program  
Intern and Student Narrative Group  
2013

MGH PT and OT Services have a 15 year history of involvement with clinical narratives. As part of the MGH Clinical Recognition Program staff write narratives as part of the entry and clinician levels of the program. These written narratives are then discussed with leadership as part of the staff being recognized at either the entry or clinician level.

What is a clinical narrative?

Clinical narrative is described as a written description of a clinical encounter or situation.

Why?

There is a good deal of work in the literature about the value of writing about clinical experiences. Through the process of writing and thinking about what is written it is believed that an individual takes the experience to a new level of understanding. Learning through the use of narratives has been referred to as “different way of knowing” and narrative “reasoning” has been added to the list of clinical reasoning processes. Each time that a clinical story is told, either in written form or to someone else it results in a new version of the story or a new “told”.

How will students and interns be involved with narratives?

We plan to have a monthly student narrative “rounds”. Each month, one student will be asked to write a brief (1-2 pages) narrative based on a clinical experience that they have had over the past several weeks. This will be shared with the group members for discussion at the monthly rounds meeting.

The goals of this experience will be:

1. Extend the experience of the written narrative beyond the individual author to a group of clinicians.
2. Appreciate how narratives can be used as a professional development tool through:
  - a. the process of writing
  - b. sharing with colleagues
  - c. engaging in unbundling/co-construction
3. Apply some of the insights/ideas gained through narrative rounds to their practice and/or professional development

FORMAT:

1. Each month one intern/student will be assigned to write a narrative based on their clinical experiences.
2. The written narrative will be distributed in advance of the rounds so other group members can questions they may have and/or areas they would like to discuss further.
3. One of the CI's will service as facilitator of the rounds. They will be responsible for time keeping the session and getting it started. All group members will engage in the process of "unbundling" and "co-constructing" the narrative with the author by asking questions and sharing insights.
4. At the end, the author will share their experience of the writing and unbundling process with the group.