

STACER: Standardized Assessment of a Clinical Encounter Position Statement

The RCPSC requires Pediatric residency training programs to perform and document by observation an assessment of each resident's history and physical examination (HPE) abilities in response to the following:

1. The major importance of HPE in the day-to-day activities of Pediatricians
2. The necessity to insure that HPE skills are rigorously evaluated during Pediatric training
3. The necessity of eliminating non-standardized patients from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) Pediatric examination leading to Certification
4. The impracticality and ethical difficulties of using young children as standardized patients
5. The value of detailed information on HPE to be included with the specialty-specific Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER) and Core In-Training Evaluation Report (CITER)

Purpose: To have a standardized system across all programs with regards to timing and number of attempts for the STACER.

Guideline:

1. The STACER can be conducted starting the fall of the PGY 3 year.
2. A maximum of three attempts will be allowed.
3. Once the STACER has been passed, repeated attempts to improve the comments or scores will not be allowed.
4. All STACERs should be conducted by the home program and should be completed before residents move on to fellowship programs.
5. Residents that fail three attempts at the STACER should have a remediation plan implemented. The remediation plan should clearly outline the number of further attempts the resident will have to pass the STACER after successful remediation.
6. For a resident that has failed three times, the decision to hold the resident back from either writing the Royal College exam or going on to fellowship training will be at the discretion of the program and will depend on the other assessments of the resident and the local promotion policy.