Observership Questions and Answers

FAQ’s for an Observer

1. Where can I apply for an Observership?
   You need to contact a practice or physician directly to arrange an Observership.
   The MCFP is developing a data base of physicians who are willing to take on observers. Please contact Amanda at awoodard@mcfp.mb.ca

2. What am I allowed and not allowed to do during an observership.
   You are allowed to observe the physician in his or her practice. You are not allowed to take a history, or examine a patient. You are not allowed put data into an EMR or paper chart. You and the physician are allowed to discuss the case and the management of the condition seen.

3. Do I need permission or need to register with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM) before I apply/do an Observership? No this is not required.

4. May I request a letter of reference for an Observership.
   It is at the discretion of the physician if he/she provides you with one. The physician however is quite restricted in what he/she can put into a reference letter as per the CPSM guidelines on observership.

5. What is the difference between an Elective and an Observership?
   An elective is set up when you are already a registered trainee enrolled in the Medical system
   An Observership is usually an informal arrangement, with restricted exposure.

6. What are the benefits of doing an observership?
   It provides exposure to part of the Canadian Health system. It may show initiative.

7. Would an observership help me match to a residency program.
   Unlikely, as the purpose of an observership is to provide you with exposure to a part of the Canadian Health system.

8. What should the length of an observership be?
   This will be agreed between you and the physician. Remember it is time consuming for a physician to have an observer in his/her practice.

9. What clinical skills can I demonstrate to a physician during an observership.
   None. It is not allowed for an observer to examine a patient.

10. Do I have to sign a PHIA agreement with the practice before I can do an observership.
    Yes.
FAQ for the physician

1. What should I ensure have in place prior to taking on an observer.
   Ensure the patient has given informed consent and document the consent in the patient chart.
   The Observer needs to sign a PHIA agreement.

2. What Can an Observer do in my Practice.
   The observer can only observe. They are not allowed to take a history, examine a patient or be
   involved in any way in patient care.

3. Can an observer input data in to my EMR.
   No. an observer can only observe. You and the observer can discuss the case and it’s
   management.

4. What can I put into a reference letter.
   Please reference your letter within the limited parameters of the CPSM guidelines. You can
   mention the Observers interest in medicine, their knowledge in discussion of a case and it’s
   management. you may choose to comment on responsibility, punctuality, demeanor, interest in
   medicine, commitment and diligence

5. What is the value of an Observership.
   It is a forum for an observer to be exposed to part Canadian Health system.

6. Can I get paid for an Observership.
   No. This is a voluntary agreement between you and the observer.

7. What should the length of an observership be?
   This will be agreed between you and the Observer. Remember it is time consuming for a
   physician to have an observer in his/her practice.

PHIA AGREEMENT CLICK HERE