As per the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), the purpose of the STACER (Standardized Assessment of a Clinical Encounter Report) is “to assess the Psychiatry Resident’s ability to acquire a comprehensive history from a patient, evaluate his/her current mental state, interpret the acquired information and arrive at a diagnosis, formulation and management plan.” Further, the assessing psychiatrist(s) will also provide feedback to the resident.

Residents are required to complete both formative (practice) STACERs and summative (PGY2 Foundations of Discipline and PGY4 Core of Discipline) STACERs. For more details, please refer to the STACER Guidelines on our website: Policies and Guidelines | Department of Psychiatry (utoronto.ca)

A small number of residents experience repeated challenges with summative STACER exams and as such, require additional coaching. Hospital training sites are each asked to contribute coaches to assist residents with STACERs – i.e. “STACER coaches.”

Coach responsibilities

- Review past and recent practice and summative STACERs.
- Review any relevant resident assessment data – for example, recent PCS (Psychiatry Competence Subcommittee) report.
- Conduct 1-2 practice STACERs with residents, providing both written and verbal feedback on areas of strength and improvement.

In general, the time commitment is 4-6 hours.

Residents identified with more significant areas for improvement with STACERs can be referred by the Program Director to the Resident Assessment and Support Subcommittee (RASC).

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