**Checklist for Preceptors: Engaging Unmotivated Medical Students**

Understanding the Student

* Observe the student’s behavior for signs of disengagement.
* Schedule a private meeting to discuss their feelings and challenges.
* Encourage the student to share personal goals and interests.
* Identify any external factors that may be affecting motivation.

Setting Clear Expectations

* Clarify the goals and objectives of the rotation.
* Define standards of performance and responsibilities.
* Establish regular check-ins to discuss progress.
* Adjust expectations based on the student’s feedback and progress.

Personalizing Learning

* Incorporate the student’s interests into learning activities.
* Use a variety of teaching methods to cater to the student’s learning style.
* Offer choices in assignments or projects to foster autonomy.
* Highlight the relevance of learning activities to the student’s career goals.

Providing Constructive Feedback

* Provide timely and specific feedback based on observable behaviors.
* Focus on growth and development in feedback discussions.
* Encourage self-reflection on performance and areas for improvement.
* Create a supportive environment for giving and receiving feedback.

Encouraging Engagement and Participation

* Involve the student in patient care and clinical decision-making.
* Assign responsibilities that increase in complexity as the student shows improvement.
* Encourage questions and provide detailed explanations.
* Recognize and commend improvement and effort, regardless of how small.

Fostering Professional Development

* Discuss the importance of professionalism and empathy in patient care.
* Model professional behavior and ethical decision-making.
* Encourage participation in professional development workshops or seminars.
* Provide resources for further learning and exploration of medical topics.

Supporting Well-being

* Discuss the importance of work-life integration and stress management.
* Provide information on resources available through the medical school for mental health and well-being.
* Encourage participation in peer support groups or mentoring programs.

Reflecting and Adjusting Strategies

* Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of applied strategies.
* Be open to adjusting approaches based on the student’s evolving needs.
* Reflect on the preceptor-student dynamic and seek feedback for improvement.

This checklist serves as a comprehensive guide for preceptors to engage and support unmotivated medical students effectively. By following these steps, preceptors can create a more positive learning environment that encourages growth, development, and motivation.