

Dr. Greenberger's tips for succeeding in the Internal Medicine Acting Internship:

- 1) For every problem in your plan, have an extremely specific plan. If you are recommending treatment, give us a medication name, dose, and duration. Also, for every problem, have a contingency plan. "If...happens overnight, I would recommend..."
- 2) Honesty is key! If you did not ask it or examine it, do not say that you did. Residents and attendings can see right through this and may not be able to trust you ever again. I unfortunately saw this happen when I was a hospitalist, and it is very unfortunate for the entire team. We rely on students and residents to gather information and report it accurately for us to be able to do our jobs well and take the best care of patients. We all overlook things and make mistakes, and admitting to it only makes you more trustworthy to your team and a better provider. Expect at some point during your first week for your superior to ask: "Did your patient have...blank?" and be prepared to say that you did not ask.
- 3) We expect you to be more independent, succinct, and knowledgeable than a third-year student, but we do not expect you to be at the level of a resident. Do not try to "appear independent" at the expense of asking important questions when you do not know the answer. Your residents and attendings will expect you to be a little more independent than a clerk, but again, the key is that we can trust you, so ask questions when you are not sure. Reliability is MUCH more important than an appearance of knowledge that's not actually there.
- 4) Do not assume that the standards for your notes have decreased as an AI. Even if your interns or residents are not writing their notes perfectly, it does not mean you should skimp on yours if you have the time. Your residents and attendings ARE reading them. They may not read all of them, but you will not know when they are reading them, so make sure each one could stand on its own as an example of putting your best foot forward.
- 5) Do your absolute best to have your notes done before you leave the hospital. This is primarily a safety issue. Nurses and covering providers need to know your team's assessment and plan if you are no longer available in the hospital.