

History and Physical Assignments

At times it is not possible to perform a complete history and physical including the pelvic and breast examination on the same patient. If necessary, you may combine components of exams from more than one patient. The purpose of this communication is to clarify the assignment.

An appropriate H&P/DDX assignment will include:

1. The assignments

A GYN patient with at least one real problem. An uncomplicated annual exam will not suffice, although a complete evaluation of a preoperative patient would be. Just be sure to include the indications for pre-op labs and studies. If something was done and you can find no indication for it, do not include it on your worksheet.

An OB patient, either a “high-risk” (antepartum) patient with a problem, or a patient in labor. When writing up an OB patient in Labor and Delivery, include the labor course with a Friedman’s Curve and a delivery note.

2. Examinations

- a. A documented complete breast exam in the format given in orientation for the GYN H&P.
- b. A complete pelvic and bimanual examination in the format given at orientation for each assignment.
- c. Any other pertinent physical exam findings.

Composites are allowed on sensitive exams if documented as such:

The breast and pelvic exam may be from different patients than the interesting patient you choose to write up. Although it would be wonderful if you could perform all on your patient, many times this is not possible. You will be documenting these to practice the correct documentation of these exams.

4. The differential diagnosis activity

This will suffice for your assessment and plan. Please include a differential diagnosis for the patient’s problem, explaining why each diagnosis is included on the differential, and what you would do to work up that particular diagnosis.

5. Feedback

Your assignments will be reviewed by your assigned attending or resident and returned to you with written or verbal feedback. They must then be turned in to the Clerkship Coordinator, either signed by your preceptor or with email confirmation from your preceptor.

