Guidelines for Clinical Case Presentations

Requirements:
Cases must be electronically submitted in Word format to the DSME’S (Director of Student Medical Education) office and copied to the Site Coordinator by Friday of the week before the presentation is given and the DSME will review for completeness. The weekly presentation dates and times are assigned by the DSME.

Each student must present a minimum of two cases with passing grades during the third year core rotations.
All students on all third year rotations required to attend the presentations. Attendance is required at all VCOM core site Clinical Case Presentations unless there is an excused absence. Exceptions for required attendance may be made only if the student is scrubbed in a surgical case while on a Surgery rotation, actively involved in a delivery while on an OB/GYN rotation or participating in some Underserved Care rotations at sites more than 30 minutes away. The excused absence form must be approved and signed by your preceptor and submitted to your Site Coordinator by the end of the business day following the missed presentation.

Students on Extreme Hardship rotations are to present to a physician within the educational system of the site and have the site submit evaluations to Clinical Affairs.

Appropriate cases include:
- An unusual presentation of a common problem or a common presentation of an uncommon problem
- Those cases generating a wide differential diagnosis that requires diagnostic reasoning
- Potentially solvable on data collected and relevant to the specialty of rotation
- Interesting and challenging cases that may or may not be rare
- Those with good quality diagnostic studies such as x-rays, CTs, ECGs, etc. (assure all identifying info removed)

Case formatting includes:
- The institution name and VCOM regional site
- The student presenter's name
- The precepting physician’s name
- General case identifiers (do not use patient name or any patient identifying information)
- Date of the presentation
- Rotation dates and specialty of the rotation where the patient was seen
- Generally cases should be no less than 5 pages in length and no greater than 10 pages in length.
- Presentations should be done with a PowerPoint and/or handout that are clear and easy to follow.
- Recent evidence based medicine articles and a text reference must be attached for review
- Cases must be correct as to content and technical writing
Case Presentation Development:
Describe the presenting signs and symptoms, history, and physical exam
Describe the differential formulated from the presentation
Describe pertinent laboratory and diagnostic studies ordered, reason for ordering, and results
Describe the hospital course highlighting any and all significant changes in condition or treatment
If radiographs, electrocardiograms, patient photographs or other supporting material are included in the case, they must be included in the presentation
State the final diagnosis and case outcome; including final disposition, discharge planning, and follow up

Evaluation:

You must complete and pass two Case Presentations as a part of your third year curriculum in order to advance to the fourth year. You may ask your Site Coordinator to submit your two highest grades to Clinical Affairs. The case should be considered as technical writing and oral presentation skill development. The progression of the clinical case presentation is essential to developing skills in communicating in a medical environment as well as skill sets for the fourth year “thesis-level” case that is a part of required curriculum.