

# EVALUATING THE NHS FIFE BEDSIDE TEACHING PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 4 MEDICAL STUDENTS

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## Introduction

Bedside teaching has long been recognised as a key component of undergraduate medical education. However, due to restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, such learning opportunities became scarce. In 2022, a new bedside teaching programme was introduced for Year 4 MBChB students on General Medicine placement from the University of Edinburgh. This project aimed to explore students' perceptions of the utility of this teaching.

## Methodology

Questionnaire surveys were issued to two consecutive cohorts of medical students prior to and following their placement in NHS Fife, asking them to evaluate confidence in history taking and clinical examination.

## Results

- 21/23 (91%) and 22/23 (96%) responses were received for the pre-placement and post-placement surveys respectively.
- On previous placements, only 10% of (2/21) had received bedside teaching once per week.
- In each survey, 91% of students 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that bedside teaching increased their confidence when assessing patients.
- Prior to their NHS Fife placement, an average of 62% of students felt 'fairly' or 'very' confident in taking cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal or neurological histories. This improved to 85% after the bedside teaching programme.
- Similarly, in clinical examination of these four systems, the average proportion of students feeling 'fairly' or 'very' confident improved from 46% to 84%. 96% of students 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that Fife bedside teaching had improved their preparedness for forthcoming exams.
- 82% of students agreed or strongly agreed there was good availability of bedside teaching sessions

Bedside Teaching helps me prepare for medical school exams

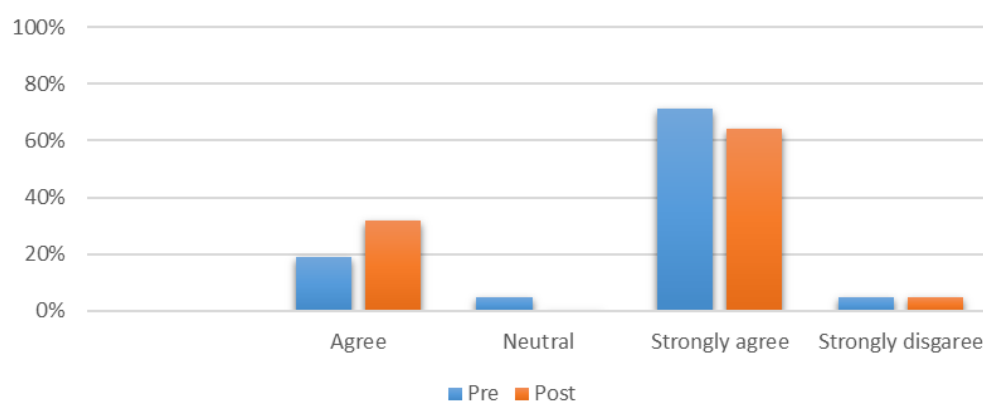


Figure 1. Student pre- and post-placement opinions on whether bedside teaching helps prepare them for medical school exams

Student confidence in systems examination pre and post bedside teaching sessions

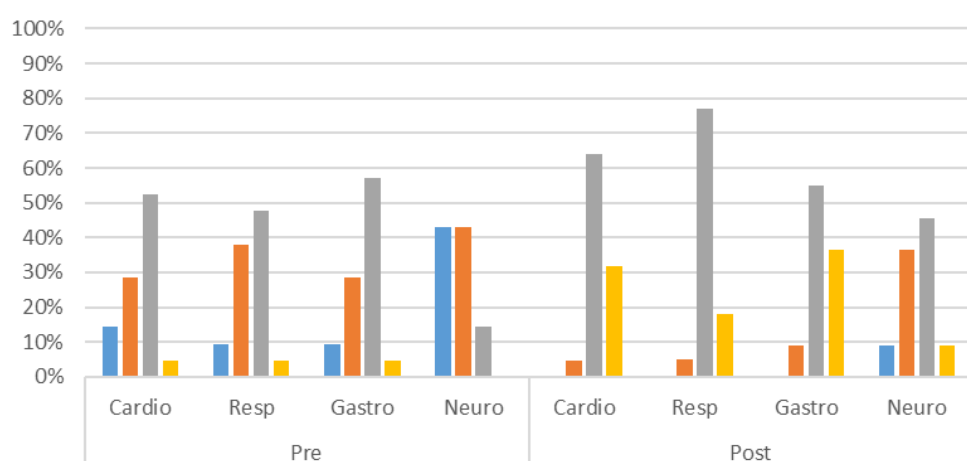


Figure 2. Students' self-rated confidence in examining the cardiac, respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological systems pre- and post-placement

## Conclusion

The bedside teaching programme for Year 4 medical students in Fife is a valuable feature of their placement, which improves their clinical confidence and exam preparedness.