

**Jess Hatfield, Class 2024****Campus:** CHI-St Joseph Health Regional Hospital, Bryan, TX**Research Area:** The Effect of a Medical Student on Preceptor Productivity**Mentor:** Gabriel Neal, MD (Family Medicine)**ORCID:** [0000-0003-3892-7138](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3892-7138)**Launch Talks:** June 2022

Jess Hatfield, a medical student at Texas A&M School of Medicine, conducted a research project investigating the effect of medical students on physician productivity, under the guidance of [Gabriel Neal, MD](#), a Texas A&M School of Medicine Clinical Associate Professor and family medicine physician at Texas A&M Health Family Care Clinic. There is currently a lack of published data on the effect of medical students on physician productivity in an outpatient primary care setting; this data is helpful in negotiations between medical schools and affiliated clinical sites. Our study analyzed data from CHI St. Joseph's comparing the productivity of 17 primary care physicians with and without medical students, measured in the number of patients seen. Next, a Qualtrics survey was sent to the participating physicians to assess how they believe medical students affect their productivity. We concluded that medical students either increase or do not change the number of patients seen per half-day but can increase preceptor time spent in clinic per day. Generally, physicians accept this increased time for the sake of promoting education and the joy of teaching. These findings can inform medical schools and healthcare organizations when negotiating financial arrangements for preceptorships in community based primary care clinics. Specifically, these findings suggest that medical students precepting do not cost the hospital organization in terms of preceptor productivity.