Supplemental Digital Appendix 1
Facilitator Focus Group Guide from a 2021 Study on Resident Perspectives Towards Learner Handoffs Within Clinical Rotations

“Hello. My name is INTRODUCE YOURSELF. Today we would like to have a conservation with you about learner handovers, which we define as the sharing of information about a learner from the outgoing to the oncoming attending physician. Specifically, we are referring to attending physicians within an inpatient rotation. We are interested in your thoughts about the practice of learner handover from your perspective and experiences.

Before we begin, let’s go over some ground rules. First, let’s all silence our cell phones, so we are not interrupted. Please keep your camera on for the duration of the focus group in order to maintain a “group” feel. In addition, we recommend that you select the view where you can see all participants, the gallery view in the upper right, in order to keep conversation going. Your comments will be recorded and transcribed without any identifying information. Because of the nature of focus groups, we cannot ensure that your information will not be disclosed outside of the group. We ask that each of you respect the others in the group and do not share information outside the group. You can decide that you don’t want to participate at any time during the focus group and we will remove your comments from the transcript. So that we can keep track of what people are saying, remember that we want only one person talking at a time. Please do not interrupt someone when they are talking. I want to make sure everyone has a chance to talk, so please use the “raise hand” feature if you feel like you are not getting a chance to share your thoughts. Please do not use the chat feature as this will not be monitored during the focus group. Finally, please do not discuss anything that would be considered HIPAA.”

“If everyone consents verbally, we can proceed with the study – does anyone have any questions? Do you all consent verbally?”

“As a reminder, please refrain from using names after this point in the interview.”

“I am going to start recording now” – START RECORDING

Priming
“In an effort to help set the scene for today’s discussions, we would like everyone to reflect upon the inpatient rotations in which they had multiple attending physicians during a single rotation. Think about your feelings approaching these transitions, or any changes in responsibility, supervision, or workflow immediately after their transition. Reflect upon how you felt your learning goals and professional development progressed through these transitions. I am hoping we can use this time to share stories and examples, and to have a rich discussion about improving communication between transitioning faculty supervisors.”

“Now that you are reflecting on these experiences, we want to talk today about the concept of learner handoffs, which are defined as the transfer of information about a learner between the outgoing and oncoming attending.”
Questions regarding learner handoffs:

1) Tell me about your prior knowledge, if any, about the concept of a learner handoff.  
   a. What is your understanding of the purpose of learner handoffs?  
   b. In what context did you hear about learner handoffs?  

2) Previous studies have shown that a significant proportion of inpatient hospitalists provide informal learner handoff to one another. Why do you think learner handoffs happen?  
   a. What may be some of the benefits?  

3) What concerns do you have about faculty providing learner handovers to each other?  
   a. *If bias is mentioned by a participant:* What do you mean by bias? Can you provide examples where you think this might have happened? Are there ways to mitigate this?  
   b. *If bias is not mentioned by a participant:* What role do you think bias may play in learner handoffs, if any? Are there ways to mitigate this?  

4) Do you believe that a learner handoff should occur?  
   a. If yes, why and under what circumstances?  
   b. If no, why not?  

5) What information would you want to be included in a learner handoff?  
   a. Is there any information that you would not want to be included?  

6) Who do you think should be involved in a learner handoff?  

7) If there was to be a learner handoff, who should have access to the information? For example, should it only be between the transitioning supervisors, or should the learner have access to the information?  
   a. What do you think the format should be? Verbal or written? Informal or a structured method to guide information transfer?  

Ending:  

8) I have no further questions. Is there anything else you would like to bring up, or ask about, before we finish the interview?  

“This concludes our focus group. Thank you for your participation. As a reminder, your comments will be recorded and transcribed without any identifying information. Because of the nature of focus groups, we cannot ensure that your information will not be disclosed outside of the group however we ask that each of you respect the others in the group and do not share information outside the group. You can still decide that you don’t want to participate at this time, and we will remove your comments from the transcript.”